KIDDERMINSTER
CHRONICLE

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Rocky attraction

Visitor numbers soaring at historic houses built in caves

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Celebrating the train that brought people together

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Medal success

Samurai club hits the judo gold standard

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FAMILY'S TRIBUTE TO CRASH VICTIM

Prince is given a hair-raising welcome



Ian Betterton meets Prince Philip and shares a joke about his spectacular mohican hairstyle

IT WAS hair-raising moment when Prince Philip met Kidderminster community campaigner Ian Betterton.

The Prince did a double-take when he saw Mr Betterton's spectacular mohican hair style.

The Prince was accompanying the Queen on a tour of the Midlands which included Worcestershire.

Mr Betterton lined up alongside other guests at a reception at the Guildhall in Worcester, to welcome the royals to the town.

He is chairman of the Friends of St Georges Park community group which aims to develop and improve the Kidderminster parkland.

The Prince could not resist sharing a joke with him.

Mr Betterton, 42, said later: "He asked me if I support local hairdressers.

"I told him I do it myself and that's why it's a bit wonky."

The royal couple then went on a walkabout where the Queen collected numerous posies from the crowd before getting in the royal car to continue to Worcester Cathedral where 1,400 people joined in a special celebration.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh later attended a Diamond Jubilee Pageant at RAF Cosford.



Mr Betterton

By Alex Ross

THE father of pub landlord David Golding who died after a collision has paid tribute to his "wonderful" son.

Mel Golding described his 31-year-old son as being "one of a kind".

David Golding, who ran The Old Peacock Inn, in Horsefair, Kidderminster, was alone when he was struck by a car on the A456, in Bewdley.

He had left a wedding reception at Wharton Park Golf Club.

The avid Wolves fan lived in St George's Terrace, Kidderminster, with his partner Claire Freeman, aged 29, and their son, eight-year-old Jay.

Mel Golding, aged 62, who lives in a flat at the pub, said: "He was everything a father wants his son to be, he was wonderful.



Tributes – David Golding

Devastated

"He was an extrovert character, he could be loud, shy, care-free, hard-working. Whatever mood he was in, everyone loved him.

"We're all devastated he has gone.

"He leaves a massive gap in the family, and community, and it will take along time for us to get over what has happened."

Mr Golding was born and raised in Kidderminster.

He attended King Charles School in the town before leaving to help his father at the pub.

At the age of 18 he took over the running of the pub.

His father said: "Everybody in the town knew him, he was so well-liked and had many, many friends.

"Since his death I have been overwhelmed by the support from the community.

"We are all so shocked by his death."

Mr Golding's mother, Julie Astrid Golding, aged 52, and his brother Dean and sister Debbie have also been left devastated by his death.

An inquest into his death was opened at Worcestershire Coroners' Court and adjourned.

Anyone with information should call 0300 333 3000.

Police targeting sex crimes

POLICE in Worcestershire are targeting sex crimes this summer. Patrols are being stepped up in town centres at night to spread a safety message among young people. Officers say that the number of sex crimes rises on Friday and Saturday nights in the summer months, and drinking makes people more vulnerable.

● Full story – Page 5

Stars join line-up for town festival

TV impressionist Alistair McGowan and former politician turned presenter Michael Portillo are among the big names lined up for this year's Bewdley Festival.

The event which will run from October 5 to 14, features performances, talks and exhibitions at venues in the town, featuring some of the biggest names in TV, theatre and music.

This year the festival will be celebrating its 25th anniversary.

McGowan will perform at the festival on the evening of October 12 and Michael Portillo two days earlier on October 10.

Historian and TV presenter Neil Oliver, a familiar face from the BBC's Coast programme, will also be holding a talk at the festival on October 8.

The festival will also include musical performances by 60s band The Zombies, featuring original members Colin Blunstone and Rod Argent, on the opening night.

They had huge his including She's Not There.

Singer Barbara Dickson whose hits included I Know Him So Well, will perform folk music on October 6, and on October 9 soul singer Ruby Turner will take to the stage. She has sung with big names such as Bryan Ferry and Mick Jagger.

Report due on hospital

A REPORT on the findings of meetings held to discuss the future of Kidderminster Hospital will be published by the end of the month.

About 400 people attended seven discussion events on plans to overhaul county hospital services.

They included two meetings at Kidderminster Town Hall where patients, politicians and health workers were able to air their views.

Six models of care have been put forward. Two threaten Kidderminster Hospital with downgrading or closure.

Becky in on-stage reunion with Jessie

BEWDLEY'S teenage singer Becky Hill was in for surprise when she went to see pop star Jessie J in concert at Warwick Castle.

Jessie who was a judge on the TV show The Voice when Becky was a contestant, spotted her in the front row of the crowd and got her on stage to sing a duet.

The star insisted that security clear a way for the bubbly blonde pub singer to join her on stage for her biggest hit Price Tag, as the 90-minute set reached a crescendo.

But in the excitement and in front of 20,000 fans, they both forgot the lyrics and had to start the song over again.

Becky gushed: "Oh my God. You do this every day. I want to do what you do. I want to sing in front of 20,000 people. This is unbelievable."

Jessie replied: "You are love, look at that crowd."

The crowd had been warmed up by three acts, but the gig, which failed to be dampened by one brief shower, hit top gear when Jessie J exploded on to the stage in her skin tight catsuit.

The sound was perfect and she was in impressively good voice.

After being reunited with Becki, she brought the show to a big finish with Laserlight and her pop classic Domino.

Pubs are hit by burglars

THIEVES stole thousands of pounds from two Wyre Forest pubs prompting police to issue a warning to other landlords to be on their guard.

The pubs on the outskirts of Kidderminster were both burgled by sneak-in thieves on Sunday afternoons, one on June 10 and the other on July 1. In each case flats were entered and searched. Police think the raids may have been linked. The pubs did not want to be identified but landlords are being urged to review security.

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Visitors roll in to see historic rock houses

AN historic group of cave dwellings is enjoying a visitor boom.

The numbers visiting Kinver's historic rock houses almost doubled during the first three months of the season, latest figures reveal.

The soaring popularity of the National Trust site has been put down to the opening of a second restored cave dwelling at the site. And volunteers also believe more families are choosing to visit tourist attractions on their doorstep rather than travel further afield.

Latest figures show that between March and May, visitor numbers shot up to 8,515 from 4,435 during the same period last year – an increase of 92 per cent.

Martindales House which is burrowed into the sandstone hillside was unveiled to the public in March following a £10,000 restoration project.

Incredible

National Trust Kinver committee member Bob Clarke said: "The increase is visitors has been incredible. Martindales House has proven very popular.

"Also, I think more people are choosing to visit local places rather than spend the money on going elsewhere."

The increase in visitors has also led to the takings in the tea room rising by 51 per cent. An appeal has now been launched for more volunteers to help guide visitors. There is now a team of 50 helpers who work in the tea room and as guides while the houses are open to the public on four days a week. They are open from March to the end of November each year. National Trust Custodian at Kinver, Mike Parker, says: "Whilst a few additional volunteers have been recruited for 2012, this has not been sufficient.

"There are new recruits but in view of the enormous surge in visitor numbers we urgently need additional volunteer support."

Up to 11 families lived in the cave homes and it is believed they came about in response to a housing shortage for employees of the Hyde Iron Works.



Visitors at the rock houses in Kinver following a £10,000 restoration project

Advice on retirement is on offer

A RETIREMENT roadshow for residents aged 55 and over is to be held in Kidderminster.

People will be able to get advice on services and keeping healthy at the event.

It will take place at Kidderminster town hall, in Vicar Street, on Saturday, from 9.30am to 3.30pm.

It has been organised by the National Careline and is aimed at people either near or just about to start their retirement.

Experts will be on hand to answer any questions on health, pensions, tax, housing and legal issues. Representatives will be on hand from the Pensions Advisory Service, Tax Help for Older People and Gwyn James Solicitors.

Delight at project go-ahead

DEVELOPERS have spoken of their delight after a major regeneration project including 250 homes, shops and industry in the Midlands was approved.

The outline proposal for the site of the former British Sugar factory in Kidderminster will create 400 jobs. Wyre Forest District Council's planning committee unanimously backed the scheme.

The proposal, put forward by the St Francis Group, is for new homes, a hotel, railway station, business units, restaurant and care home on the Stourport Road site.

The scheme has already had support from the government, which has allocated £2.5million towards a link road at the 67-acre site.

Jim Kelly, managing director of the St Francis Group, said: "We have always had tremendous support from the local authorities, and we are excited at the prospect of soon being able to begin the first phase of the development."

Show for charity

THE Kidderminster-based Upfront Entertainments are hosting a concert on September 6 at the Gainsborough House Hotel, Bewdley Hill, Kidderminster for Worcestershire Breast Unit. Acts and bands will perform and tickets are £3. Call 01905 733786.

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Anniversary of train that brought people together

BRIDGNORTH'S cliff railway which is marking its 120th anniversary, had quaint and quirky origins.

In what must count as a piece of Victorian market research, local councillor RH Harrison engaged somebody to count the number of people using the Stoneway Steps in Bridgnorth, the steep path linking Low Town with High Town.

His researcher found that on Saturday, April 7, 1888, there were 3,114 people moving up and down between 9.15am and 10pm. On Easter Monday 1888, he counted again, and this time there were around 1,234 between 7am and 8pm. It meant that Bridgnorth folk were getting an awful lot of exercise.

However good tackling the 200 or so steps may have been for their health, there were prominent townsfolk who had long aspired to do something that would bring the Low Towners and the High Towners together, unifying the community.

Celebration

Armed with this data, Councillor Harrison convened a public meeting at which there was agreement that it was most desirable that there should be a lift linking Low Town and High Town.

The dream came to fruition 120 years ago, on July 7, 1892, with the opening of Bridgnorth's Castle Hill Railway – now more usually known as Bridgnorth Cliff Railway, but known for a long time after its opening simply as "The Lift".

It was a day of celebration for the town. All the shops were closed, and there was a general holiday.

Today people can still make the short, scenic trip on England's oldest and steepest inland electric funicular railway, 201ft long with a vertical rise of 111ft, and an incline of 33 degrees. At first, the fare was one old penny. By 1934 it was still only 2d (that's roughly 1p) for a return ticket. In 1971, it had climbed to 3p (around 7d) return. Today it costs £1.10 return, with children under six travelling free.



The railway ride is steep, short, and scenic with great views of the town



The railway was the realisation of a dream



The railway in its early years

Since 1943 it has been electrically-powered but the original system was hydraulic. A ballast tank in the top car would be filled with water, causing it to descend and pull up the car at the bottom, which had been emptied of its water.

The railway's only fatal accident was on May 5, 1943. Harold Howes, 36, of Bridgnorth, the engineer attendant and proprietor for 15 years, was working near the top station on one of the cars when it broke loose and crashed to the bottom, taking him with it.

A minor mishap during a test on April 30, 1933, threatened the future of the railway. One of the cars overran, and was slightly damaged at the top station.

A period of closure followed, during which Bridgnorth fretted, and it appears that the town council considered buying it to get it running again, but found it had no powers.

Salvation came as Alderman JF Myatt, governing director of the Crown and Raven Hotels Ltd, Bridgnorth, bought it, and it began running again on May 19, 1934, although one correspondent described the first journey as "somewhat spasmodic".

The railway is now owned by Dr Malvern Tipping and his family from Suffolk, who bought it last year, having never previously visited Bridgnorth. Dr Tipping says: "We are enamoured with the town and have fallen in love with it."

The railway is popular, with passenger numbers varying depending on the weather and local events, from a few hundred on a quiet day to some 2,000 on a sunny bank boliday. There are typically between 200 and 250 trips a day, and nine full-time staff.

Firm aims to beat the metal thieves

MORE than 300 customers at Brierley Hill metal recycler Mason Metals Ltd have joined its voluntary membership scheme which aims to deter crime.

Masons, in Two Woods Lane, launched the scheme in response to police concerns over metal theft.

The scheme asks customers for their details in return for a member's card which allows for a quicker business interaction.

Managing director Andrew Jones said they wanted to trade with the public and businesses with confidence.

"Unfortunately the industry has been smeared in recent years and I felt the need to distance ourselves and our customer base from the bad press. The scheme says everything about my business and the fact so many people have volunteered is a credit to them."

Mason Metals has had its scheme mentioned in Parliament by Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris as an example of good practice.

Date for a walk

WALKERS are urged to join an event in Bewdley on August 2 organised by the Rock Pathfinders group. The guided walk will take place at 7pm from the Hop Pole Inn, Cleobury Road. For information visit www.rockvillagehall.co.uk

Police in town have new man at helm

POLICE in Dudley have welcomed a new chief with the appointment of Chief Superintendent Stuart Johnson.

Mr Johnson replaces Ch Supt Keith Baldwin, who has retired after 30 years service.

He will be responsible for policing the whole of the Dudley local policing unit, which services Dudley North and South, Halesowen and Stourbridge. He has 25 years service in the force, and started his career in Wolverhampton.

More recently, he has been responsible for local policing across the Dudley borough. Last month, he was the UK Police Commander for the European Football Championships.

He said: "I am delighted to be taking up this position and look forward to continuing to work with our local communities.

"Without doubt there are many challenges ahead but we will strive not only to maintain, but to improve our service by building on the good work that is already being done locally and in partnership with many different agencies."

Club invitation

THE Live Wyres club for over-50s holds a dance on July 21 at Wolverley memorial hall. On July 28, Victoria Williams will be in concert at Arley kings Village Hall. See livewires.org.uk for details.

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More Summer Bargains - Book Now Limited Space

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Blackpool	13th-17th August	5 Days	£149
Gt Yarmouth	13th-17th August	5 Days	£169
Torquay	27th August-1st Sept	6 Days	£259

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NEWS

Modern house built with ancient methods for sale

A FARMHOUSE which was built using traditional techniques dating back centuries has gone on the market for £985,000.

Despite its historic appearance, Brookside Farm, in Heightington, near Bewdley, was built in 1985 by Border Oak, which specialises in creating new homes using traditional methods from the 16th and 17th centuries combined with modern technology.

Andrew Grant estate agents said the house was notable for being only the second property created by the company.

It was built as a showcase to highlight the techniques used and the style of homes which could be created.

Spokesman Colin Morris said the farm had been on the market for just over a week and was already generating a lot of interest among buyers. He said there had been several viewings.

Notable

Mr Morris said: "There has been a lot of interest despite it being available for a very short time. It is very notable because it was one of the earlier buildings created by a firm which is now known across the globe.

"It is visually very striking and was designed as a showpiece for what the firm could do."

Mr Morris said a family lived at the four-bedroom property but had decided to move on. He said they had lived at the address for a few years.

The farm is set within its own wooded grounds. A double-sided working fireplace separates the drawing and dining rooms.

People can view the property by calling the estate agents on 01384 734735.



The property combines traditional methods and modern technology

Hospital transplant campaign

STAFF at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital are helping to raise awareness of National Transplant Week.

Organ donation specialists are visiting libraries in the borough to give advice and information on joining the Organ Donor Register.

The hospital's clinical lead for organ donation, Julian Sonksen, said: "Although organ transplantation is one of modern medicine's greatest achievements, it is completely dependent on the generosity of donors and their families who are willing to make this life-saving gift to others."

More than 7,500 people of all ages throughout the UK are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant

Most of those are waiting for a new kidney.

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Residents get action on parking

PARKING bans are being introduced around Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital after years of complaints that visitors and staff are clogging up roads.

Residents hope the new restrictions will keep their roads clear. They say people are trying to avoid charges in the hospital car park.

And they fear a recent 30 per cent increase in parking charges for hospital staff will make the problem worse.

Double yellow lines have been painted and warning signs put up after the plans were drafted with the help of householders.

Access will be restricted to residents on some roads and parking will be banned on others.

And a loading ban in High Street, Pensnett, will be enforced on weekdays during rush-hour.

But one resident, Gemma Jones, 28, of Kingswinford Road, said: "Unless there is proper enforcement and people are given fines then there is no point in putting these signs up."

Football event

ORGANISERS of a five-a-side football tournament at Powerleague, in Park Road, Halesowen, on July 29 from 9.30am, want to raise cash for Mary Stevens Hospice. For details about entering, call 0780 0920629.

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Express & Star editor Adrian Faber said: "The new service is the latest development in the Express & Star's proud tradition of embracing new technology. Our team is committed to producing the best newspapers possible, which readers will enjoy whether it is in the printed version or online."

Head of digital William Beavis said the new service was "the perfect way to digest the Express & Star's excellent content".

The new service comes after the Express & Star's app for iPad and iPhone users was launched in January. Hundreds of readers have taken out subscriptions.

The new desktop service requires a separate subscription to the app. Whether it is via the app or the desktop, users pay £3.99 per month or £1.49 a week to subscribe. If you only want a single edition, a new feature allows you to pay 69p for a one-off purchase.

App users can have a free seven-day trial and desktop customers can view a sample edition before they sign up.

Public's feedback wanted

A MIDLAND council's biggest department is asking for the public's views on how it is performing.

Worcestershire County Council's adult and community services is responsible for social care, libraries and adult learning.

A report has been compiled by bosses and they want feedback from the public.

The comments received will help to revise and update the report, which will be published along with a separate summary of the additional comments.

Director of adult and community services Eddie Clarke said: "It has been a really challenging 12 months.

"But while there are things we think we can do better, I believe we are continuing to deliver excellent services for people.

"But this report is not just about what we think, the really important views are those of people who interact or come into contact with these services."

The report can be seen at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/acsannualreport

Shop's new look

A PLUMBING merchant has won planning approval for a new shop front for its store in Dudley. Plumbzone, Prospect Place, says the work will enhance the look of the shop and help customers find it.

Police aim to cut sex crime

POLICE in Worcestershire have launched a campaign to cut serious sexual crime over the summer. They have issued key safety messages to people on nights out.

Extra officers have been on duty across the West Mercia force area, speaking to young people on their way out for the night to encourage them not to drink too much, to stay in control and to look after their friends.

Working with key partners, officers have also been around at the end of the night to ensure that women know who they are leaving clubs with, and that those who have had too much to drink are put into taxis so they get home safely.

Detective Inspector Callie Bradley from the force's Public Protection Unit said: "Young people aged between 13 and 24 are most likely to become victims of a serious sexual offence between 9pm and 3am on Friday and Saturday nights.

"And the number of rapes and serious sexual offences increases between June and August.

by Tim Spiers

"This campaign aims to tackle that."

The emphasis will be on town centres where officers will make a point of talking to young people as they leave clubs, bars and fast food outlets.

Det Insp Bradley added: "Drinking to excess might seem like fun, but it can make you extremely vulnerable, whether you're a man or a woman.

"We want young people to enjoy themselves but it is important that they don't wake up with regrets in the morning."

Museum has summer fun on offer



Pippa Ashmore with some of the craft activities children can enjoy

WORCESTERSHIRE'S Hartlebury Castle museum has an inexpensive calendar of fun for families during the school holiday

From August 1 to August 31, three activities for youngsterswill take place every Tuesday to Friday.

Each week will have a different historical theme taking visitors from dinosaurs right up to the Second World War.

It costs £1 a child for a day's worth of activities after the normal admission fee (£13 for a family ticket).

And on each of the five Wednesdays visitors can also join in with "Have-A-Go-Archery".

The museum will round off the summer with a special dinosaur day on the August 27 bank holiday.

The museum's Rachel Robinson said: "A visit to the county museum is affordable fun for the whole family."

For more information, call 01299 250416.

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NEWS

Libraries throw down a reading challenge

WYRE FOREST children aged four to 12 are being encouraged to take up their own Olympic challenge this summer by joining Story Lab, this year's Summer Reading Challenge.

The popular challenge runs to Worcestershire's libraries until 10 September.

Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport libraries will be hosting activities and events designed to create a real buzz around children's reading.

The challenge is to read six library books over the summer holidays.

Parents can enrol children and pick up a free Story Lab model and membership pack at local libraries.

Holidays

Story Lab is designed for children of all reading abilities.

They can read fact books, stories, joke books or picture books, and audio books count too. As long as they're borrowed from the library, they all count.

Councillor John Campion, Worcestershire County Council's Cabinet Member for Localism and Communities, said: "This is the perfect summer challenge for children as it keeps them reading throughout the holidays."

For more information phone 01905 822722 or email libchildrenandfamilies@worcestershire.gov.uk

Festival's Olympic spirit



Flower co-ordinator Sheila Gregg with a water sports-inspired display

A CHURCH in the Black Country celebrated the upcoming Olympic games in floral style at a flower festival.

St Mary's Church in Kingswinford held its annual flower event at the weekend.

The event featured sports including cycling and swimming to mark the games.

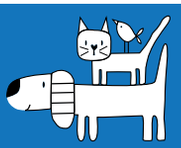
A large team of volunteers worked for months preparing for the event, which was supported by hundreds of pounds of sponsorship. The festival also featured the music of Phoenix Brass and Lydia Hackett at a gala event.

St Mary's School in Kingswinford contributed a display. Deputy church warden Margaret Penn said: "Our staff and children are delighted to have the chance to share in the festival. The church and school are at the heart of Kingswinford."

Car plan is rejected

A PLAN to sell cars on the site of a petrol station and car wash in Dudley has been thrown out. Dudley Council refused the application by the Texaco garage in Himley Road, Lower Gornal. There were fears for the green belt.

Wyre Forest Veterinary Centre

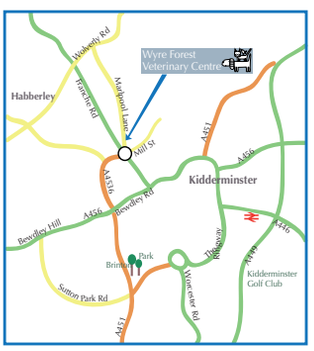


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NEWS

Honouring unsung sporting heroes



Elaine Petch, mother of Olympic athlete Louis Smith, is helping to judge the Kidderminster competition

TWO Kidderminster pub restaurants are looking for local people who give their all to support future sporting talent – and offering a £1,000 prize to a Champion of Champions.

The Mare and Colt in Summerfield and the Running Horse Inn in Bewdley, are looking for people to nominate proud Kidderminster parents who put their kids first, or a committed coach in the community.

The pubs have teamed up with Elaine Petch, mother of Olympic gymnast Louis Smith of Peterborough, to recognise and reward the time, effort and money that people like Elaine dedicate to support other people's sporting dreams.

One winner will win £1,000 cash and the person who nominated them will win a party for 10 at Chef & Brewer. To nominate, see www.chefandbrewer.com

Club ready to save lives

A ROWING club has taken on a piece of life-saving equipment after members watched a rower suffer a cardiac arrest last year.

Members at Bewdley Rowing Club have received their own defibrillator and are now trained to use the kit, thanks to West Midlands Ambulance Service.

It comes a year after members saw a man collapse in his boat from a cardiac arrest at a nearby regatta.

Chris Kowalik, a club member and spokesman for West Midland Ambulance Service, said: "Last year at a regatta, we saw a rower collapsed in his boat having suffered a cardiac arrest.

"He was given cardiopulmonary resuscitation at the scene by the regatta's on-site medical cover and an ambulance and rapid response vehicle arrived to take over the treatment and take him to hospital.

"Thankfully we know he has made a full recovery and is rowing again, but the events of that day made us in Bewdley think.

"We felt this could happen to anyone at any time. The membership of Bewdley felt it to be the responsible thing to be taught how to handle such a situation."

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Four-day break departing September 14

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From £239*

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Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament and the London Eye
Four-day break departing September 21

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From £259*

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- Three nights half-board accommodation
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- Entrance to Buckingham Palace
- Flight on the London Eye
- Visits to Royal Windsor and Henley-on-Thames

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The Queen: 60 photographs for 60 years - Exhibition at Windsor Castle
Two-day break departing October 6

This exhibition presents a portrait of the Queen's reign as captured in fleeting moments on both official occasions and at relaxed family gatherings.

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Common in need of volunteers

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help with work on Hartlebury Common.

They would be asked to help across the whole site to conserve the habitats by clearing waste, and controlling excessive foliage.

All tools and equipment will be supplied but volunteers are asked to wear sturdy footwear, suitable outdoor clothing and bring a packed lunch.

The next volunteer date is on Saturday. Call 01905 766493 for details.

Unanimous welcome for big town redevelopment scheme

PLANS for a major regeneration project in Kidderminster which will include up to 250 new homes, shops and industry, have been approved.

The outline proposal for the site of the former British Sugar factory will create 400 jobs when it is finished. Wyre Forest District Council's planning committee unanimously backed the plan.

The proposal, put forward by the St Francis Group, is for the new homes, a hotel, railway station, business units, restaurant and care home on the Stourport Road site.

It would replace disused land last used for industrial purposes in 2002.

The scheme has already had support from the government, which has alloctaed £2.5million toward a link road at the 67-acre site.

Councillor Marcus Hart welcomed the plan. He said: "Residents have been asking for a long time what we are going to do about this site, well this could be the answer.

"This is at the heart of our town's regeneration.

"There are things in the application which are not quite perfect, but overall I am delighted to support it."

Support was given from every councillor, although there was some concern about the number of affordable homes proposed.

The national guideline for a new development is 30 per cent of the new homes should be affordable, but St Francis Group has proposed 12 per cent for the site due to financial constraints.

Concerns were also raised about access to the site, which would be from two junctions on Stourport Road.

But under the outline plan a railway halt could be created for the Severn Valley Railway and potentially be linked up to the national rail network.

Planning officer Julia Mellor said the next step would be for the applicant to submit a full planning application.

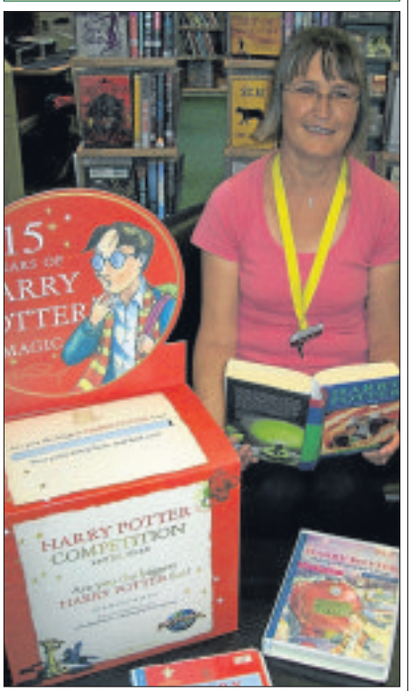
Firm is to share in £35m deal

STOURPORT building firm Thomas Vale Construction has been chosen as Birmingham Science Park's joint venture partner for the £35 million Digital Plaza development in Birmingham.

The first building has an estimated construction cost of £7.5 million and is expected to take 12 months to build.

The Science Park's flagship Faraday Wharf building will be upgraded and linked to the new iCentrum building via a bridge.

Library is potty for Harry Potter



Jenny Chambers, customer advisor at Stourport library

A LIBRARY is joining in a national hunt for Harry Potter's biggest fan.

People are being invited to enter a countrywide competition at Stourport Library. To enter people must write no more than 50 words about why they love Harry Potter.

Entries can be left in a special postbox in the library.

The competition has been set up to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the publication of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone which started the global phenomenon.

The publishers, Bloomsbury, are looking for the most creative, clever and entertaining entries. The word limit is set to a strict 50 words, entrants are can draw, doodle and make their letters as elaborate as possible.

Entries should include name and date of birth, parent or guardian's name where relevant, address, email address and phone number.

And there will be a Harry Potter session at the library on July 24, at 2.30-4.30pm.

For more information call Stourport Library on 01905 822722 or visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/libraries

Vets give pet lovers a break

A WYRE FOREST vets' group has raised £400 to help pet owners.

The money will pay for a bench at a Kidderminster park so that people walking their dogs can have a rest while out exercising their pets.

Vale Veterinary Group, based in Kidderminster and Stourport, raised the money for the Friends of St George's Park by organising quizzes, auctions and sponsored walks.

The idea for the bench came from Emma Kerry, senior veterinary nurse, after the supporters group for the park, in Radford Avenue, worked with the practice to promote responsible dog ownership in the area.

Lisa Langford, practice director from Vale Veterinary Group, said: "We are thrilled to have been able to help with the fundraising and are looking forward to seeing the bench in place.

"We hope all our clients, as well as patrons of the park, will be able to visit and enjoy the bench for years to come."

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LETTERS

Army cutbacks are an absolute disgrace

WHAT an absolute disgrace the cuts announced in the Army are.

In Stafford we have a local interest in the cuts, but surely everyone everywhere must have great sympathy for those brave men who have been willing to lay down their lives for us in the most horrendous conditions, and are now being put on the scrapheap.

I accept that we have to save money, but is it right that those who sit behind a desk, who go home each night to a warm house and comfortable bed, who look forward to a nice retirement with a fabulous pension, can take the easy way out and, at a stroke of a pen, put an end to a complete regiment of brave men?

There are 23,000 officials working in Whitehall on procurement. Look at Israel, which has the same procurement budget – it employs only 430.

It shows that it's the pen pushers who are overstaffed.

Every year we read that high losses made by the MoD are out of control. Witness the latest on the new aircraft carriers – £3.5 billion originally, now more than £6 billion. The type of aircraft needed for the carriers has had to be changed three times, at huge cost.

In business if we made these mistakes we would be out of a job very quickly.

I believe that as we all have an elected MP whose job is to represent not only us but our views as well. We should make our views known to them and request that they take those views to Parliament, put their hands up and tell their masters that the public will not put up with acts like this any longer.

If they won't do this then make it known that next time we will elect someone who will.

D Burt,
Poplar Way,
Moss Pit, Stafford.

Why it is impossible for us to buy British

WE are asked to "buy British", but it is almost impossible to obtain British goods.

During the last month I have purchased numerous items, none of them British made:

Two landline telephones, made in China

Doorbell, made in China.

Back support cushion, made in India.

Shopping trolley, made in China.

Two packets of socks, made in Europe.

Tea towels, made in Taiwan.

Kingsmill Jubilee tray, made in China.

What has happened to the British kite mark?

Mrs J Bowen
Wassell Road
Wollescote
Stourbridge

LETTERS to the Editor

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kidderminsterchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Plea to help blind people enjoy books

ACCORDING to the Royal National Institute of Blind People just seven per cent of books are available in formats fully accessible to blind and partially sighted people. This is shocking. Why should people be denied the right to read, simply because they have a disability?

On October 19 the RNIB will be asking everyone to get involved in Read for RNIB Day to help raise money for reading services such as braille, giant print and audio books for almost two million blind and partially sighted people in the UK.

It costs about £4,500 to make a single title accessible in giant print, braille and as a talking book. So whether it's holding a book sale, hosting a literary lunch, a story sleepover, or being part of a read-aloud-athon, every penny raised is vital. RNIB needs your help, why not get involved?

For more information about how you can take part, call 0845 345 0054 or visit www.readfornib.org.uk

Michael Palin CBE
Supporter of RNIB

Get public behind the transport services

I SEE Centro is calling for the Government to set aside funds to promote services within the West Midlands.

Sounds like a good idea. There are still many of us left who some years ago campaigned vigorously for a train service between Walsall and Wolverhampton. We got one, but only for a short time. It was withdrawn on the basis that it was not profitable.

The principle reason for this was the unreliability of the service. There was also a need for publicity, and time for the service to become bedded in. The tram/train idea would seem to overcome some of the problems.

Perhaps Centro could start a campaign to get public support for the concept.

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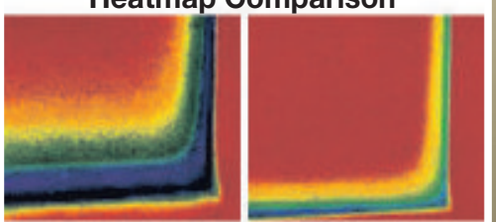




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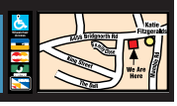


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CLUB NEWS

Richard's talk on life as a dame

PENN TG

THE first meeting in June was the Jubilee celebration and members dressed in red, white and blue.

Entertainment came from Richard Westcott and his 'Confessions of a Pantomime Dame'. He soon had everyone laughing and joining in.

Richard changed from a smartly dressed gentleman, applied his make-up, put on the padded underwear to make the dress look the part and with high heeled shoes and a lovely blonde wig transformed himself into a pantomime dame.

Quick costume changes were managed with help from one of the members doing his zips.

The group then had strawberries and cream, shortbread and sparkling wine to toast the Queen.

Members were taught how to make a box from folded paper squares at the social evening.

Social Studies speaker Jane James gave a talk on cycling and women, a fascinating insight into how women were hampered by the attitudes of the time but also by their clothes.

Women's journals of the day gave dire warnings of the illnesses that could befall women after riding a bicycle.

Meetings are held at Penn United Community Hall, Penn Road, at 7.15 pm on the second, third and fourth Wednesdays of the month and a warm welcome is extended to new members and visitors .

Club serves up treat with Wimbledon teas



Inner Wheel Club members sell their wares at the Wombourne Jubilee Carnival

INNER WHEEL CLUB OF SEDGLEY & WOMBOURNE

AT THE Wombourne Jubilee Carnival members of the Inner Wheel club of Sedgley & Wombourne sold plated scones jam and butter as 'Wimbledon teas' and punch balloons with the funds raised going to Local charities supported by the group.

Carnival congratulations

WOMBOURNE WI

SPEAKER for the evening was Ed Shaw who gave an illustrated talk on central America.

After finishing National Service at the age of 20, he decided to cycle around the world finding work.

He particularly enjoyed the hospitality of the Americans and now has a holiday home in the 'middle of the Arizona desert' where he and his wife spend several months of the year.

At first, when Ed and his wife arrived in the States, they purchased an old car to visit places on the way to their abode.

On the reverse trip, they explored more areas and then sold the vehicle before flying home.

Eventually they decided to buy a new, red pickup which also converts into a motor home enabling them to explore more territories south of the border. Slides were shown of his travels including animals encountered along the way like a sloth, snakes and spiders.

Mr Shaw raises money for charity, on one occasion cycling across America. He has also cycled to Rome.

While eating hot dogs, members were reminded of their outing to Halfpenny Green and they congratulated themselves on a wonderful carnival.

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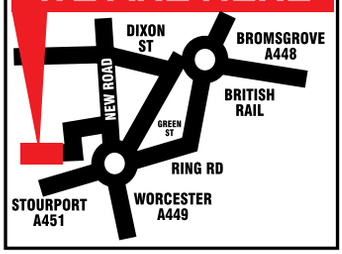
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(T&C's below)

SUE 5ft 2ins female, brown hair/eyes, loving, likes music, socialising, films, good times, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393223**

BIG bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501** 📱

CHRIS attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392401** 📱

DENISE tall leggy good looking single mum, easygoing, enjoys nights in/out, animals, WLTM tall male for fun times possibly more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391873** 📱

SLIM 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 339373** 📷

YVONNE looking for Christian male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391135** 📱

MADELINE 5ft black seeks male 26-41 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375789**

PATRICIA 5ft 5ins, red hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, meals, clubs, seeking nice young man who is kind, generous to look after me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378207** 📱

LADY widow, 58, slim, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks smart, intelligent, easygoing man with GSOH who enjoys conversations, days out, short breaks, meals out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387247**

WIDOW 70, genuine, kind, caring, laidback, seeking male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387013**

EASYGOING down to earth female, likes cooking, exploring new things in life, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386893** 📱

39YR old single female, hurt in past, animal lover, likes most things, seeking genuine man for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386887** 📱

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818** 📱

IRENE 55, blonde hair, brown eyes, loving, caring, genuine, N/S, lots of love to give, seeks male, 55-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392807**

LOUISE youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392491** 📱

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979** 📱

KAREN witty female who loves to laugh, WLTM similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393125** 📱

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883** 📱

FARMER'S granddaughter, OHAC, stunningly attractive, respectable, sincere, WLTM countryman/batchelor, 48-62, 5ft 9ins plus, genuine, uncomplicated with GSOH and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387204**

POLLY dark hair, 50, attractive, outgoing, seeks special outgoing male for days out etc. Telford. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 371127** 📱

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852** 📱

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651** 📱📷

ATTRACTIVE slim blonde, 45, seeks honest, caring, genuine male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 349651**

28YR old brunette, seeks fun loving, adventurous male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380918** 📱

FEMININE caring, young, mid 60's N/S woman, varied interests, seeks genuine, loyal male of similar age to share togetherness and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 321931** 📱

NICOLE attractive, blonde, green eyes, young 51, professional, own home, 2 boys, loves jazz, countryside, dogs, seeks genuine male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390244** 📱📷

WIDOW genuine, 70, kind, caring, N/S, seeks male for friendship, relationship, holidays and outings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 303133**

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325** 📱

NICKY looking for attractive male 48-55yrs for fun, good times and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388393**

50YR old female, seeks male for fun and socialising. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 233580**

KIND loving lady 43, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391863**

LONG haired blonde, 37, enjoys meals out but would love to cook a romantic meal for the man of her dreams. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361076** 📱

CHLOE pretty single female 36yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lonely and looking for reliable male for mutual companionship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387057** 📱

TALL curvy female, 36dd, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 359238** 📱

HOLLY 25, slim, attractive, brunette, likes gym, WLTM nice, sensitive male of similar age for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380851** 📱

CLARE good looking, beautiful blonde, seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378209** 📱

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTM male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376165** 📱

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377432** 📱

GENUINE female, 36, brunette, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, fun, outgoing, adventurous, GSOH, looking for tall, honest, genuine male for good companion, dates and romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388327** 📱

SHAPELY attractive, light skinned black female, 39, seeks attractive, fit, male, 30's, builder type, tanned, rugged for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 231152**

DIONNE 5ft 3ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, 42, single mum, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376801**

JANICE attractive female, 50, size 12-14, seeks younger gent, 40-50 for fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376115** 📱

KATHY caring lady 60, medium build, smoker, seeks caring, smart male 55-65 for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 374773** 📱

SINGLE MEN

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125.

(T&C's below).

IAN 61, seeks attractive lady for discreet daytime meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393529**

KEVIN attractive young looking 45yr old, slim, fit, varied interests, likes football, meals out, cinema, pubs, holidays, nights in, seeks similar aged female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393523** 📱

GENT 58, OHAC, retired, sensitive, caring, warm, easygoing, N/S, seeks N/S slim, attractive lady for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393515**

60'S MAmale, West Midlands, WLTM local lady for weekend fun dates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393303** 📱

SINGLE male, 58, good looking, loyal, caring, no ties, seeks mature, similar female to become soul mates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393201**

32YR old slim, dark haired male, adventurous, creative, likes music, walks, cycling, photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753** 📱📷

GOOD looking 39yr old male, likes pubs, music, walks, swimming, seeks nice female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392943** 📱

51YR old male, 6ft, dark hair, single parent, likes most things, sports, seeks slim, honest, caring female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392933** 📱

RALPH 65, 6ft, quiet, genuine, lonely widower, likes nights in/out, weekends away, seeks slim-medium build widowed lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391359**

TONY 50, dark hair, 6ft, seeks large female for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393079**

THOMAS 39, seeks female, 27-48 for relationship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392851** 📱

45YR old male, average build, GSOH, likes country walks, meals out, don't be shy, now reply. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393137** 📱

KIND honest, caring male, 70, likes socialising, holidays, OHAC, seeks female, 60-70 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393053**

55YR old male, slim, seeks lady, any age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391172**

CHRIS 53, 5ft 8ins, slim-medium build, GSOH, affectionate, loving, loyal, likes music, walks, cooking looking for that special lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391681** 📱

SINGLE dad, 44, slim, good looking, seeks genuine lady, N/S for special times, nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367415** 📱

WHITE male, 45, medium build, blue eyes, seeks Asian lady for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392489**

PAUL 61, seeks attractive lady for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392463**

TONY 56, dark hair, 6ft, confident, outgoing, seeks female, 60-80 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392203**

WARREN 60's, romantic, WLTM affectionate lady for evenings/weekend meetings and close friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392191** 📱

DON 6ft, semi-retired businessman, varied interests, days in, meals out, holidays, music, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391590** 📱

ATTRACTIVE male, 41, likes gym, socialising, seeks female, 25-40 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391580** 📱

DARK handsome male, Tiger Woods lookalike, seeking BBW. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392179** 📱

PROFESSIONAL male, 42, hurt in past, seeks female, 32-40. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392769** 📱

NAUGHTY 40 something, tall, smart, GSOH, seeks lady for rainy days and Sundays. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392665** 📱

TOM 62, fit, likes tennis, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392659** 📱

GAY SINGLES

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www.localgaydate.co.uk

IAN 61, seeks attractive lady for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390695**

54YR old male, 5ft 11ins, short hair, honest, seeks female for fun and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390624**

MALE 51, 6ft 2ins, honest, loyal, seeks female for friendship, relationship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 308785**

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ALBUM REVIEWS

Cheryl on light track

Cheryl – A Million Lights

THE Girls Aloud singer turned super-celeb doesn't need a surname anymore, like Madonna or Beyonce or a superstar footballer.

On her third album she doesn't push her vocals, keeping them midrange on a series of similar dancefloor orientated pop numbers with just the merest hint of trendy dubstep and a bigger dose of urban/R&B. It's all in the Rihanna, Madonna, Britney ballpark. Screw You is bound to excite speculation (hmm, who's that about?) whilst Sexy Den A Mutha is catchy enough to deliver her a big hit.

Cheryl is in concert at Birmingham LG Arena on October 12.



Cheryl back with a new album and a Birmingham gig

Linkin Park – Living Things

IT'S a balancing act for these Californian rockers on their fifth studio album, keeping the fans from the raw rap-rocking days alongside their less pierced and less hirsute new following who probably listen to Coldplay and Kasabian too.

The result is an album with plenty of muscle, an excellent vocal performance by Chester Bennington and several anthemic rockers, especially the outstanding Burn It Down. It would have been even better with a little more anger, a bit more edge.

Flo Rida – Wild Ones

THE American rapper has gained the Midas touch with his blend of catchy pop and dance tunes, so much so that this set sounds like a greatest hits package in waiting.

The urban sounds are derivative but deliver hooks aplenty and driving beats, enhanced by a judicious use of samples from soul greats such as Freddie King and Etta James.

Good Feeling and Wild Ones, the latter a vehicle for the vocal talent of Sia, have already been international hits and the double entendre filled Whistle will make it three this summer.

The more laid back Let It Roll and In My Mind Part 2 (featuring an excellent guest vocal from Georgi Kay) are less frenetic. Sweet Spot will get plenty of attention thanks to a guest vocal from Jennifer Lopez and could that be Flo Rida (AKA Tramar Dillard) showing a sensitive side on I Cry?

It's a bit cheeky referring to a ninth track as a bonus but it's a good one, Flo Rida, Audra Mae and Redfoo from LMFAO turning Bryan Adams' Run To You into a dance anthem called Run.

Maroon 5 – Overexposed

AN ironic title for the Los Angeles group's fourth studio album, seeing as Moves Like Jagger has become one of the best-selling singles of all time and frontman Adam Levine a star judge on the US version of The Voice.

They started as a rock band but have become steadily poppier until they now make bright and brash ear candy achieved by collaborating with the folks who work with Britney Spears, Katy Perry and Beyonce. Hence certain hits like Payphone (with rapper Wiz Kalifa) and Lucky Strike.

Levine's 'ey-oh' vocals recall the 80s, in fact opener One More Night could have come from The Police or Men At Work back catalogue. But on the catchy Ladykiller he's more in a Michael Jackson mode. It's interesting how the sunny style of the songs often contrasts with bitter lyrics. Sounds like Adam wants to get even with some ladies.

And for those new to the band, the record company has tacked on a faithful version of Moves Like Jagger done in the studio for The Voice US and again featuring Christina Aguilera.

Sigur Ros – Valtari

ONE part Elbow to nine parts Pink Floyd, then chill to below zero, that's the recipe for Sigur Ros – Icelandic creators of hazy, elegant mood music.

On Valtari they take their symphonic sound to spiritual levels, way beyond the reach of most rock bands. This is especially apparent with the choral harmonies of what, in the absence of Icelandic letters on my keyboard, I shall have to refer to as track five.

This music has a slow bleak beauty which makes the fact that the lyrics are sung in Icelandic irrelevant.

You don't so much listen to Valtari as dissolve into it.

Leon Burakowski



Launch of renamed school club

A BEWDLEY after-school club has a new name, thanks to one of its pupils.

The Mayor of Bewdley Councillor John Latham launched the newly-named St Anne's Fun House, the idea of 10-year-old Heather Wooldridge.

Linsey Waldron, manager of the club at St Anne's Primary School, in Wyre Hill, said the children wanted to change the name, and Heather won a competition to come up with a name and a logo.

Man who carried out string of burglaries is sent to jail

A MAN who burgled businesses and homes in Worcestershire, Herefordshire and the West Midlands has been sent to prison for six and a half years.

Roy David Wallace, aged 44, of Lingard Close, Nechells, Birmingham, appeared at Worcester Crown Court for sentencing after previously admitting eight charges of burglary, an attempted burglary, theft of a car in Redditch and dangerous driving during a police pursuit which followed a burglary in Kidderminster.

He received sentences totalling six years for the burglaries, attempted burglary and theft charges, with a further consecutive six months for dangerous driving.

The court heard that some of the burglaries were at businesses in Redditch and Aston, Birmingham, while others involved homes in Worcester, Cofton Hackett, Grafton in Hereford, and Kidderminster. All the offences took place between March and November last year. The first was at Hydraforce Hydraulics Ltd in St Stephens Street, Aston, in the March, when he broke in and took a Ford van.

In September he burgled three commercial premises in Redditch. He stole jewellery, cash, electrical goods and car keys from homes in Hereford. Then in November he took a watch and jewellery after breaking into a house in Cornmeadow Lane, Worcester. Three days later, he and another man stole jewellery, electrical and household goods from a house in Cardinal Drive, Spennells, Kidderminster, but were disturbed by a woman returning home who took down part of the registration of their getaway car.

Police spotted the car on the A449 at Ombersley and after a 30-minute pursuit it was stopped on the A441.

The other man involved in the Kidderminster burglary, who cannot be named for legal reasons, received a 10-month sentence for that and other offences.

Town gets a Google accolade

GOOGLE has recognised Bewdley as being one of Britain's villages whose business has grown significantly due to internet use.

Bewdley has been named a Rural Digital Trailblazer by the search engine which assessed the strength of online commercial activity in rural areas with populations of 13 000 and less in the UK.

The list highlights the fact that an enterprise that uses the internet can be located anywhere.

Children given a fire engine treat



Pre-school leader Margaret Rogers with Lacie Cox, four, at the front, and other children with crews from Kinver

AWARDS have been handed out to youngsters at a pre-school near Stourbridge to mark their achievements during the year.

They were presented during an open day at Peter Pan Pre-School which has been based at Stourton Village Hall since 1969.

Staff at the school, who are all volunteers, were on hand to welcome visitors. They had arranged for crews from Kinver fire station to visit the school with their engine.

School leader Margaret Rogers, aged 65, who is marking her 41st year at the centre, said: "It is wonderful time when we celebrate children's achievements at each of the school year but also a sad time in some respect as families who have been part of our lives for three years move on."

The grandmother-of-two, who first joined as a volunteer before taking charge in 1976, added: "It is lovely to come in to work with the children every day. We are getting to the stage when families are now coming back bringing their own children."

Beach stays at stately home

A BEACH will remain at a Black Country stately home for longer than planned after crowds of families defied the bad weather.

The sandpit in the grounds of Himley Hall in Dudley was installed for the Under Fives Day there last month and was due to be removed next week.

But council chiefs have decided to extend its stay after it proved popular with the families despite the torrential rain of recent weeks.

The 120 tonnes of play sand will remain in the grounds for families to enjoy for the next few weeks. It comes after a display of Mini Coopers had to be cancelled last weekend at the hall because torrential downpours made conditions too dangerous.

Dudley Council bosses say they are hoping the weather will improve and they want to give more people the chance to visit.

Councillor Tracy Wood, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "The Himley Beach is always a very popular attraction, and it's our way of bringing a bit of the seaside to Dudley."

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TRAVEL

A resort beyond pier

SOUTHPORT boasts the oldest iron pier in the UK and it is the country's second longest (after Southend), which you will well believe after the bracing 1,216 yard walk to its slot machines at the end.

But don't expect to hear the waves lapping beneath your feet, the tidal range of the Irish Sea here is so massive that you may have to peer from the end of the pier to see the white-topped breakers in the distance.

However, that does mean one heck of a big beach, that gives the locals their nickname of Sandgrounders. And if you don't fancy the long walk back, there is a pier tram or, for the less self-conscious, a toy town train.

Fifteen miles north of Liverpool and just over two hours by car from the West Midlands, Southport has given itself the title England's Classic Resort. It does have Victorian elegance alongside the bucket-and-spade trappings.

The long, tree-lined and flower-festooned Lord Street is said to have inspired the boulevards of Paris. The future Napoleon III of France did spend time in exile in Southport before his triumphant return to Paris, where he cleared medieval streets to make way for wide tree-lined thoroughfares.

Lord Street has lots of canopied shops with several old style shopping arcades, of the sort 1960s planners foolishly destroyed in many other towns. One of them, The Royal Arcade, includes a massive antiques/bric-a-brac market covering 30,000ft over two floors.



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Plenty of retail therapy opportunities on Southport's long Lord Street with its elegant Victorian arcades

The oldest part of Southport, Churchtown, pre-dates the resort and its thatched cottages have been turned into tea rooms, restaurants and independent shops. Nearby is the restful Botanic Gardens including an unusual, grotto-like Victorian fernery.

Tattoo

The receding coastline means the town's Promenade is now alongside the large saltwater Marine Lake, on which a Mississippi style paddle boat cruises.

New land on the seafront has been turned into charming parkland and retail/leisure park Ocean Plaza, including a modern cinema and ten pin bowling.

Probably the town's most unusual attraction is the Tattoo Museum on Princes Street. More than 5,000 tattoo artefacts are crammed into a working tattoo artist's shop, including the earliest machines and designs dating back to Victorian times. Because they own the designs, they can give you one of those vintage tattoos.

The success of Sefton's golf coast – five championship links courses within a 10 minute drive – has seen the arrival of new hotels, including the four star Ramada Plaza Southport.

It is part of an imposing modern lakeside complex on The Promenade, including the town's main theatre and conference centre.

There are more than 100 restaurants, cafes and tea rooms in Southport. I can recommend French style bistro Auberge and Spanish tapas restaurant Finos at the Waterfront.

For more information see www.visitsouthport.com

Leon Burakowski

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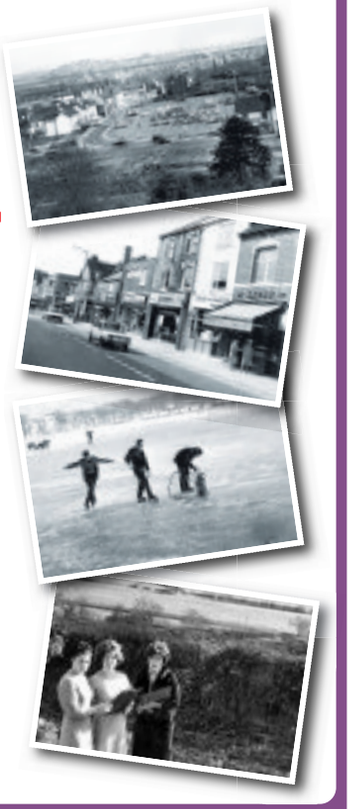
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Rowing club hosts two-day regatta

A TWO-DAY regatta at Bewdley Rowing Club, Riverside North, is on Saturday and Sunday from 8am.

This year's event has been called Row for Gold and entries will be welcomed in all boat classes.

There will also be a disco on the Saturday night and spectators can enjoy a barbecue and tea tent.

The event is always a popular attraction with visitors and camping facilities will be available for those who wish to view the events on both days.

Concert date at town beauty spot

A FREE afternoon concert will be held at a Kidderminster beauty spot on Sunday.

The event will take place between 2.30pm and 4.30pm at Brinton Park, in Sutton Road, Kidderminster.

It is part of a series of musical afternoons taking place at the venue over the summer months.

Styles range from brass bands to 60s cover bands. Another event will be held on July 29.

The park does not have formal seating so people are being asked to bring along their own chairs.

Village fete date

A FETE and car boot sale is on at Astley Village Hall near Stourport on Saturday at 1pm. There will be stalls and a grand raffle, face painting and a bouncy castle.

You'll have the time of your life with this Dirty delight

Dirty Dancing, Birmingham Hippodrome

FROM the audience reaction Baby and crew certainly did give them the time of their lives.

The packed Hippodrome came alive to the music and incredible choreography of Dirty Dancing which is due to run at the theatre until late summer. This is definitely one not to miss. The standing ovation at the end said it all.

The energetic cast took us back to the summer of 1963, complete with corny jokes and the wonderful songs.

The story is a bit predictable as Baby transforms from having two left feet to near perfect dancing with her holiday love, the dance teacher, but it has a wonderful feelgood factor and everyone lapped it up.

The dancing was superb, no more so than from Johnny (Paul-Michael Jones) who has represented England as a Latin American and ballroom dancer, who teamed up on stage with Penny (Nicky Griffiths) to teach dancing to the holiday-makers at Kellerman's .

Jill Winternitz was superb as Frances 'Baby' Houseman, who is literally swept off her feet by the dance teacher. The audience were also swept along with the romance when Johnny uttered those words made famous by Patrick Swayze in the film: "Nobody puts Baby in the corner".

Sue Attwater

Hayes times comedy to perfection

You're Only Young Twice, Wolverhampton Grand

THE Ian Dickens Productions Summer Play Season continued with this madcap comedy, starring the former 'Gunner Gloria Beaumont' himself, Melvyn Hayes.

Ron Aldridge's farce is simply the tale of an elderly widower who acts like a rebellious teenager, to the despair of his daughter and son-in-law, following the death of his beloved wife.

Hayes was certainly the highlight of the cast, playing his role to perfection with natural comedic timing.

Alison Norton



The world's her stage – Meera Syal stars in Much Ado About Nothing at Stratford

It's much ado for Meera

WOLVERHAMPTON-born actress and comedienne Meera Syal makes her Royal Shakespeare Company debut this summer as the feisty Beatrice in Much Ado About Nothing.

The Essington-raised former star of Goodness Gracious Me and The Kumars at No 42 will lead an Asian cast as Shakespeare's story of love and deceit is transported to India. The RSC promises audiences at the Courtyard Theatre in Stratford will make their passage to India as soon as they arrive at the theatre with awnings, street stalls and Asian music.

Former Birmingham Rep director Iqbal Khan's production of the romantic comedy runs from July 26 to September 15, and then goes to London's West End.

Club hosting a top double bill

COMEDY and music is coming to Wyre Forest in a one-night show featuring top Midlands funny man Doug Parker and singer Maggie O'Hara.

They are on at the Chester Road Sports and Social Club at Kidderminster Victoria cricket ground on July 27 at 7.30pm.

Popular comic Doug Parker is well-known in the region and Maggie O'Hara is in demand in theatre, TV, and cabaret.

Tickets are £9 including a buffet. Call 07841 502535.

Get in harness for horse festival

THE 10th Trimpley Heavy Horse Festival will be held at Holbeache Farm, near Kidderminster, on July 29.

The event is a family day to raise awareness of the Suffolk Punch Horse, which is rarer than the Chinese Panda. The show opens at 10.30am and will close at around 4.30pm.

Events will include tractor and trailer rides, horse and cart rides, trade stands, a dog show and art displays.

All proceeds go to local charities and the Suffolk Punch Horse Society.

Past comes alive

SVARTLAND Living History Society appear at Bodenham Arboretum, Wolverley, near Kidderminster, on Saturday and Sunday. For details see http://svartland.webs.com



What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 21.07.12

CHOICE



Davina McCall

The Million Pound Drop Channel 4, 7.10pm

Over the next four weeks, this quiz show will be paying its own tribute to our summer of sport by inviting celebrities and noted athletes to compete for the chance to raise as much money as possible for Paralympic and disability-related charities. And if across each weekend, the couples can save enough bundles of money from the Drop, they'll unlock an extra cash bonus. So, the pressure is really on this week's pairs, who include Radio 1 mates Sara Cox and Aled Hayden Jones, actress Natalie Cassidy and X Factor contestant Frankie Cocozza.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Live Golf: The Open Championship. **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.10** Live Golf: The Open Championship.

6.10 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.30 Film: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade. (1989) Action adventure sequel, starring Harrison Ford and Sean Connery.

8.25 The National Lottery: Secret Fortune. Siblings Zoe and Ronnie compete in the high-tension quiz show presented by Nick Knowles, hoping to win enough money to take their mother on a trip to Las Vegas.

9.20 Casualty. Part one of two. Locals hold a vigil for the man who died after being Tasered by the police, only for violence to break out – with Scarlett and Lloyd right in the thick of things. Concludes tomorrow.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Mrs Brown's Boys. Newlyweds Dermot and Maria argue. Last in the series. (R)

11.00 Live at the Apollo. Micky Flanagan introduces Jason Byrne and Seann Walsh; (R) National Lottery Update.

11.45 Film: Grosse Pointe Blank. (1997) A hitman runs into trouble when he tries to combine his latest assassination job with a trip home for a school reunion. Black comedy drama, starring John Cusack.

1.25 Weatherview. **1.30** Sign Zone: Faster, Higher, Stronger. The history of the Olympic Games. (R) **2.30** Usain Bolt: The Fastest Man Alive. (R) **3.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.05 Film:** Jubal. (1956) Western, starring Glenn Ford and the late Ernest Borgnine. **1.45** Show Me the Monet. **2.30** Racing from Ascot. Clare Balding presents live coverage of today's meeting, including the 4.35 King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes (1m 4f). Plus, races at 2.45, 3.20 and 3.55. **5.00** Formula 1: German Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.

6.10 Live Golf: The Open Championship. Hazel Irvine presents concluding coverage of the third day's play at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club, where the remaining players on the course complete their penultimate rounds. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

8.00 The Hollow Crown – Henry V. Tom Hiddleston, John Hurt, Paterson Joseph and Anton Lesser star in this adaptation of Shakespeare's play about the 15th-century king's war with France. Last in the series.

10.15 QI. Guests Rob Brydon, Sandi Toksvig, Fred MacAulay and regular panellist Alan Davies join host Stephen Fry, who asks questions on the topic of highs and lows. (R)

10.45 TOTP2. Featuring archive performances by acts including Culture Club, Deep Purple, the Human League, the Sex Pistols, Bob Marley and the Wailers, and Voice of the Beehive. (R)

11.45 Film: Kicks. (2009) Premiere. Comedy drama, with Kerrie Hayes, Nichola Burley, Jamie Doyle and Gary Cargill.

1.05 BBC News. **3.35** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.25** Saturday Cookbook. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** The Real Housewives of New York City. **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.25 Film:** Escape to Victory. (1981) **2.35 Film:** The Man with the Golden Gun. (1974) **5.00** Regional Programme; Weather.**5.10** ITV News; Weather. **5.25** Primeval.

6.30 You've Been Framed Extreme! Harry Hill narrates a selection of some of the most extreme clips filmed by viewers, featuring various trampoline tumbles and a bike rider enduring an uncomfortable landing. (R)

7.30 The Cube. Phillip Schofield invites world champion hurdler Dai Greene and former Olympic javelin thrower Fatima Whitbread to take on a series of fiendishly difficult challenges in the cube.

8.35 TV's Biggest Blockbusters. The most watched programmes in British television history, revealing the top 10 shows in four categories – entertainment, live events, drama & soaps, and comedy.

10.30 ITV News; Weather.

10.45 Mad Mad World. With Peter Andre, Vinnie Jones and Christine Bleakley.

11.30 Take Me Out. A martial-arts champion, a soul singer, a car salesman and a street dancer try to impress 30 single women, and last week's couples go on their dates. (R)

12.35 The Store; ITV News Headlines. **2.40** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.25** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Channel 4 Presents – London 2012: Ellie Simmonds – Part III. The swimmer finishes her preparations for the Paralympics. (R) **6.05** Sali Mali. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** That Paralympic Show. (R) **7.00** British Formula Ford Championship. **7.25** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: Ibiza Rocks: Ed Sheeran. (R) **9.10** T4: The Dark Knight Rises: T4 Movie Special. **9.40** T4: New Girl. (R) **10.15** T4: Revenge. **11.15** T4: Suburgatory. **11.45** T4: Summer Daze. **12.20** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.20** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** Channel 4 Presents: London 2012 – Hannah Cockroft Part III. (R) **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.10 Come Dine with Me. Hairdresser Mel Steel hosts the final party in Hertfordshire. (R)

6.35 Channel 4 News.

7.05 4thought.tv. The role of father figures in modern society.

7.10 The Million Pound Drop. Natalie Cassidy and Frankie Cocozza, Sara Cox and Aled Haydn Jones, and Jonathan Edwards and Colin Jackson work in pairs to win money for charity.

9.00 Film: Date Night. (2010) Premiere. Comedy, starring Tina Fey and Steve Carell.

10.45 Film: Another 48 Hrs. (1990) Comedy thriller sequel, starring Eddie Murphy and Nick Nolte.

12.40 The Million Pound Drop. (R) **2.15 Film:** Gentlemen Broncos. (2009) **3.45** St Elsewhere. (R) **4.35** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.30** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Zoo Days. (R) **10.05** How Do They Do It? (R) **10.35** Big Brother: The Eviction. (R) **11.35 Film:** Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol. (1987) **1.20 Film:** Adventures in Babysitting. (1987) **3.15 Film:** Fly Away Home. (1996) **5.20 Film:** Stone Cold. (2005)

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v South Africa. Mark Nicholas presents highlights from the third day of the First Test at the Oval.

8.00 5 News Weekend.

8.05 NCIS. New evidence reveals the port-to-port killer has infiltrated the agency and plans to murder a member of the NCIS team, prompting Gibbs to seek the help of former mentor Mike Franks. (R)1

9.10 Big Brother. Highlights of the most recent goings-on, including the latest eviction from the housemates' point of view.

10.10 CSI: Miami. New series. The final season of the police drama begins with a wounded Horatio racing to save Natalia from drowning, before setting a trap for the man who tried to kill them.

11.05 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. A man dies from overeating and it emerges he had a rare genetic disorder. Meanwhile, a couple going through an acrimonious divorce are seemingly killed by their own dog. (R)

12.05 SuperCasino. **4.00** HouseBusters. (R) **4.25** Great Scientists. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 The Real Hustle: New Recruits **7.30** Top Gear **8.30 Film:** Shrek (2001) **9.55** Russell Howard's Good News **10.25** Live at the Electric **10.55** Family Guy **11.40** American Dad!

BBC Four

7.00 The Blue Planet **8.00** BBC Proms 2012. The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra perform Beethoven's Symphonies Nos 3 and 4. **10.10 Film:** Ajami (2009)

ITV2

2.10 America's Got Talent **4.50 Film:** Free Willy 3: The Rescue (1997) **6.45 Film:** The Mummy (1999) Action adventure, starring Brendan Fraser. **9.00 Film:** Casino Royale (2006)

ITV3

3.35 Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four **5.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Lewis **11.00 Film:** Mystic River (2003)

ITV4

2.00 Live Cycling: Tour de France. Stage 19 from Bonneval to Chartres. **5.00** Goodwood Festival of Speed **6.00** 20 Football Games That Shook the World **7.00** Cycling: Tour de France Highlights **8.00 Film:** Space Cowboys (2000) **10.30 Film:** Training Day (2001)

E4

3.10 Desperate Housewives **4.05** Revenge **5.05** How I Met Your Mother **6.05** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** Rules of Engagement **8.30** Suburgatory **9.00** Derren Brown: Evening of Wonders **10.40** The Big Bang Theory **11.35** The Midnight Beast

Film4

3.15 Carry On Spying (1964) **5.00** The Mistress of Spices (2005) **6.55** Footloose (1984) **9.00** The Happening (2008) **10.45** Aliens (1986)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 22.07.12

CHOICE



Kenneth Branagh

Wallander
BBC1, 9pm

It's the final edition of this series, but don't panic – a fourth run will be made, although Kenneth Branagh claims it will be the last. Here, Wallander is disturbed by a visit from Linda's childhood friend Anna Westin late at night. She's a troubled soul who then disappears, and it isn't until later that the detective discovers a link between her and an elderly murder victim whose badly burned body has been found in a shallow grave. Linda returns to Ystad to help her father with the investigation. They worry that Anna may become the latest victim of a religious fanatic.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Country Tracks; (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.00** BBC News. **12.05** Bargain Hunt. (R) **12.35** Live Golf: The Open Championship.

7.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.15 Countryfile. Matt Baker learns about the Victorian doctor whose Wenlock Olympian Games inspired the modern Olympics and Adam Henson visits a Lancashire farm where the dairy cows milk themselves. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.10 Casualty. Part two of two. As the vigil descends into a full-scale riot, Jordan performs life-saving surgery on girlfriend Yvonne, while Scarlett faces the police. Last in the series.

9.00 Wallander. The detective investigates a connection between an elderly murder victim and the disappearance of one of Linda's childhood friends. Kenneth Branagh stars. Last in the series.

10.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.55 John Bishop's Britain. The comedian tackles the subject of friends.

11.40 Formula 1: German Grand Prix Highlights. Lee McKenzie presents action from the 10th round of the season, which was staged at the Hockenheimring for the first time since 2010. (R)

1.10 Weatherview. **1.15** Sign Zone: Faster, Higher, Stronger. (R) **2.15** Holby City. (R) **3.15** Britain's Lost Routes with Griff Rhys Jones. (R) **4.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Raymond Blanc: The Very Hungry Frenchman. (R) **11.00** Live Golf: The Open Championship. **12.35 Film:** Jack. (1996) **2.25** Show Me the Monet. **3.10** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.55** Flog It! (R) **4.55** Songs of Praise. **5.30** Formula 1: German Grand Prix Highlights.

7.00 Secrets of Our Living Planet. Chris Packham travels around the globe to reveal the secrets of watery habitats, examining how plankton influence atmosphere and climate. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 Engineering Giants: Gas Rig Strip-Down. Tom Wrigglesworth and Rob Bell follow each step of the process as a gas platform is pulled from the North Sea and taken to Newcastle to be disassembled and recycled.

9.00 World's Most Dangerous Roads. Hugh Dennis and David Baddiel travel along more than 1,200 miles of hazardous roads in Ethiopia on a journey to Aksum, the country's holiest place. Last in the series.

10.00 Mock the Week – Again. Another chance to see an edition of the comedy show. Hosted by Dara O Briain, with guests joining the panel to poke fun at the news. (R)

10.30 Line of Duty. Fleming resolves to salvage the anti-corruption investigation and goes to worrying lengths to earn Gates' trust – but arouses Morton's suspicions in the process. (R)

11.30 Twenty Twelve. Ian discovers Daniel has been offered a new job. (R)

12.00 Film: Sparkle. (2006) **1.40** BBC News. **4.15** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.25** Dinner Date. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** House Gift. (R) **10.25** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **11.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **1.35** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **2.35** TV's Biggest Blockbusters. (R) **4.25** Doc Martin. (R) **5.25** The Chase. (R)

6.25 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.40 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Britain's Secret Treasures. Michael Buerk and Bettany Hughes reveal the top 10 historical artefacts discovered by the public, including Viking treasure and a 3,500-year-old gold cup. Last in the series.

8.00 Dancing on Ice Goes Gold. Olympic medallists Colin Jackson, Olga Korbut, Tessa Sanderson, Pippa Wilson, Jamie Baulch, Steve Williams and Gail Emms each perform an ice-skating routine for the show's judges.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.

10.20 Bomber Command. John Sergeant pays tribute to the aircrews of RAF Bomber Command who died serving their country and tells the stories of some of the surviving members. (R)

11.15 Premiership Rugby Sevens Series. Peter Richards presents action from the Group B fixtures at Edgeley Park, with Leicester Tigers, London Welsh, Northampton Saints and Sale Sharks the sides involved.

12.15 The Store. Home shopping; ITV News Headlines. **2.15** Golden Balls. (R) **3.05** Motorsport UK. **3.55** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Ironman 2012. **6.40** Canary Wharf Triathlon. **7.05** The Great Swim Series. **8.00** Will & Grace. (R) **8.25** Will & Grace. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.25** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie Does Marrakech. (R) **1.35** How to Cook Like Heston. (R) **2.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.35** The Simpsons. (R) **4.05** Deal or No Deal. **5.05** Channel 4 Presents: London 2012 – Will Bayley Part III. (R) **5.10** Channel 4 News. **5.40** 4thought.tv. **5.45 Film:** Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief. (2010) Premiere. Fantasy adventure, starring Logan Lerman.

8.00 Come Dine with Me. Four contestants host dinner parties in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, featuring laddish banter, sports day-themed entertainment and a starter of squirrel that causes a stir.

9.00 Thelma's Gypsy Girls. The pressure of getting her trainees up to speed forces Thelma Madine to take time off work. However, chaos ensues in her absence and a lie that could destroy the scheme is exposed.

10.00 Film: Role Models. (2008) After a brush with the law, two irresponsible men have to look after troubled kids as community service. Comedy, with Paul Rudd, Seann William Scott and Christopher Mintz-Plasse.

11.55 Film: Internal Affairs. (1990) Crime thriller, starring Richard Gere, Andy Garcia and Laurie Metcalf.

2.00 A Family Portrait. (R) **2.05** Camelot. (R) **3.00** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.10** Channel 4 Presents: London 2012 – David Clarke Pt III. (R) **5.15** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** City of Friends. (R) **6.35** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Abby's Flying Fairy School. **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Family! (R) **7.35** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.50** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Monkey Life. (R) **10.25** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **11.25** Big Brother. (R) **12.25 Film:** Krull. (1983) **2.55 Film:** Clash of the Titans. (1981) **5.15 Film:** Pocahontas. (1995)

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v South Africa. Mark Nicholas presents highlights of the fourth day of the First Test at the Oval, as the three-match series continued.

8.00 Once Upon a Time. Emma races to find Mary Margaret before Regina discovers she is missing – but is taken hostage by a man desperate to return to the land of fairy tales.

9.00 Big Brother. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

10.00 Film: Blood Work. (2002) Crime thriller, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood.

12.00 World's Fastest Train. (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. **4.05** Sons of Anarchy. **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Olympics' Most Amazing Moments **9.00** Girl Power: Going for Gold **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.30** Snog, Marry, Avoid?

BBC Four

7.00 London: A Tale of Two Cities with Dan Cruickshank **8.00** The Bridges That Built London with Dan Cruickshank **9.00 Film:** Amadeus: The Director's Cut (1984) **11.50** Teenage Kicks: The Search for Sophistication

ITV2

3.25 Film: Cool Runnings (1993) **5.25 Film:** King Kong (2005) **9.00** Benidorm **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.45 Film:** Bridget Jones's Diary (2001)

ITV3

3.40 Film: Jesus Christ Superstar (1973) **5.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** A Touch of Frost **11.10** Wire in the Blood

ITV4

2.00 Live Cycling: Tour de France. **5.00** Minder **6.00** The Sweeney **7.00** Cycling: Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Premiership Rugby Sevens Series **9.00 Film:** Tightrope (1984) **11.20 Film:** Balls of Fury (2007)

E4

3.10 Glee **4.10** New Girl **4.40** Suburgatory **5.10** The Big Bang Theory **6.05** Revenge **7.05** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Crocodile Dundee II (1988) **10.10 Film:** Sleeping with the Enemy (1991)

Film4

3.20 The Last Mimzy (2007) **5.15** Brief Encounter (1945) **7.00** Joe Wright on David Lean **7.05** Anna Karenina Clip Exclusive **7.15** Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer (2007) **9.00** The Hunt for Red October (1990) **11.40** Viva Riva! (2010)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

The Woods, Channel 5, 10.55pm
A teenager is packed off to an isolated girls' boarding school by her neglectful parents. The troubled girl discovers a number of students have disappeared without trace, and as she investigates it becomes apparent something sinister is lurking in the nearby woodlands and preying on the pupils. Horror, starring Patricia Clarkson and Bruce Campbell. (2006)

A Running Jump, Channel 4, 11.05pm
A man's attempt to buy a second-hand car in London's East End becomes surprisingly complicated when he crosses paths with a selection of colourful characters, including a rogue trader and his unusual family. Mike Leigh's short comedy, commissioned for the London 2012 festival, starring Eddie Marsan. (2012)

TUESDAY

Green Street, ITV1, 10.50pm
An American journalism student moves to London to live with his sister after getting kicked out of Harvard. After attending a football match with his brother-in-law, he is so impressed by the banter and camaraderie of a bunch of hooligans known as the Green Street Elite, who pin their allegiance to West Ham United, that he decides to join them. Drama, starring Elijah Wood. (2005)



Green Street, Tuesday, ITV1, 10.50pm

WEDNESDAY

A Clockwork Orange, ITV1, 10.50pm
Sadistic young gang leader Alex leads a carefree life indulging his love of rape, violence and classical music. When he is finally arrested, he is subjected to a sinister form of aversion therapy that brainwashes him into being physically unable to use violence. Drama, starring Malcolm McDowell. (1971)

THURSDAY

Millions, BBC1, 11.35pm
A bag of stolen money falls from the sky, and wide-eyed youngster Damian thinks it is a gift from God. However, his level-headed brother realises they must race against time to spend the loot before the country switches to the Euro and a robber on their tail catches up with them. Comedy drama, starring Alex Etel. (2004)

FRIDAY

The Shipping News, BBC2, 11.10pm
A man struggling to rebuild his life after the death of his emotionally distant wife moves to a small town with his daughter and estranged aunt, where he undergoes a profound journey of self-discovery, finding support and comfort in the local community. Drama, starring Kevin Spacey and Julianne Moore. (2001)

Pick of the Week

London is on track for a fantastic event

If the comedian Bill Bailey is to be believed, the Olympics opening ceremony is going to be the most excruciating cringe-fest in our history. He foresees an "inflatable Churchill bobbing down the Thames" and a "huge animatronic Yorkshire pudding" in the middle of Wembley Stadium. And that's before the ribbon-cutting Boris Johnson is allowed access to scissors.

Go on, admit it, you wouldn't be surprised if those things were actually involved, would you? After all, we have no real idea what to expect when the eyes of the world turn upon us. All we can hope is that it isn't like our childhood backyard firework displays, when we got all worked up and excited, only for the rock to go "pfft" and then go out.

But let's not be cynical or pessimistic. Let's get enthusiastic. This could be the greatest show on earth, and given that Oscar-winner Danny Boyle is behind the whole thing, it will at least be ambitious and grand in scope.

All we really know is that his vision will be unlike anything we've ever seen before. For a start, the Olympic Stadium will be transformed into the "British countryside". A cast of 10,000 volunteers will help recreate country scenes, against a backdrop featuring farmyard animals and landmarks.

And the opening scene of the £27m ceremony will be called "Green and Pleasant," according to Boyle.

He added the show would create "a picture of ourselves as a nation."

"The best way to tell that story is through working with real people," said Boyle, who has even reserved a role for NHS nurses in proceedings.

The set will feature meadows, fields and rivers, with families taking picnics, people playing sports on the village green and farmers tilling the soil.

Real farmyard animals will be grazing in the "countryside," with a menagerie of 70 sheep, 12 horses, three cows, two goats, 10 chickens, 10 ducks, nine geese and three sheepdogs.

One billion people worldwide are expected to watch the opening ceremony.

The world's largest "harmonically-tuned" bell, weighing 23 tonnes and measuring 2m tall x 3m wide, will ring inside the Stadium to start the Shakespeare-inspired spectacle, featuring 900 children from the six Games host boroughs.

We also know that the panorama also includes two mosh-pits, representing the Glastonbury festival and the Last Night of the Proms, while the music – if recent reports are to be believed – is an eclectic selection ranging from the Beatles to the Monty Python theme tune. Yep, there's that cringe factor rearing its head again!

The performance is followed by the athletes' parade, in which more than 200 countries are represented. Then the Queen will carry out the official opening, before the arrival of the Olympic flame, when the identity of the final torchbearer will be revealed.

On your marks, get set, go!



Sue Barker is among the presenters in Olympics 2012 Opening Ceremony, Friday, BBC1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Absolutely Fabulous
BBC1, 9.30pm
Patsy and Edina are unlikely representatives for London 2012 – their idea of exercise is wielding another another bottle of champagne. But as Joanna Lumley and Jennifer Saunders return for the last of three specials celebrating Ab Fab's 20th anniversary, it seems even chain-smoking, wine-swilling fashionistas aren't immune from Olympic fever. Admittedly, Eddy is a bit vague on when the Games actually start, but she's still managed to cash in by renting out her home to a Hollywood A-lister – which is all the more impressive given that she's still living there along with her mum (June Whitfield), Saffron (Julia Sawahla) and Bubble (Jane Horrocks).

TUESDAY

Jon Richardson: A Little Bit OCD
Channel 4, 10pm
Have you ever gone back to the house to double-check you really did lock the front door, and then joked it was down to your obsessive compulsive disorder? And if so, did you then wonder why this particular form of illness has somehow become a laughing matter? It's a subject that's been bothering Jon Richardson, who has mined his own quest for control and obsessive nature in his book, It's Not Me, It's You. But while some fans and armchair psychiatrists may have been quick to diagnose him with OCD, Richardson is keen to learn more about what the term actually means and why we feel comfortable bandying it around so casually.

Turn Back Time – The Family
BBC1, 9pm
They say that if you remember the Sixties, you probably weren't there. If you remember the Seventies, however, you probably see a trained counsellor once a week. In the last episode of the documentary-cum-reality show, Lisa Rhodes moves in with her two sons, joining the other parents for whom the 70s are all about nostalgia. As the families pull together as a community for the final decade, it's time for them to decide – when was the golden era for the family?

WEDNESDAY

Olympics 2012
BBC1, 3.30pm
Cardiff's Millennium Stadium is the setting for the first action of the Games, as Great Britain take on New Zealand in a Group E women's football clash. The sides are joined in the group by Cameroon and favourites to qualify Brazil, with the top two sides progressing to the quarter-finals, along with the two third-placed nations with the best records in the three groups. England manager Hope Powell was given the job of coaching Great Britain and she largely kept faith with the players she is most familiar with, selecting 16 English players alongside two Scots in her squad of 18, with Kelly Smith among those to be picked.



The Big Sports Quiz – Boys v Girls, Thursday, ITV1, 9pm

THURSDAY

The Big Sports Quiz – Boys v Girls
ITV1, 9pm
Previous episodes of The Big Quiz have seen the cast of Coronation Street battle their Emmerdale counterparts. Now it's time for sports personalities to take part. Two teams – captained by Paddy McGuinness and Charlotte Jackson (pictured) – will feature the likes of England goalkeeper Joe Hart, runner Kriss Akabusi, Olympic gold medallist Amy Hazel, swimmers Mark Foster and Karen Pickering, and heptathlete Louise Hazel. Physical and mental challenges abound – and there may be some dirty tricks along the way … Stephen Mulhern hosts.

FRIDAY

Snowdonia – A Year in the Wild
BBC2, 9pm
It's Friday night. You've got options. Hit the pub? See a movie? Take the family bowling? No, you want to stay home and watch Snowdonia: A Year in the Wild. This is the first of three films exploring life in Britain's National Parks. It tells how Snowdonia in north Wales is a landscape formed by extinct volcanos, and is home to creatures including otters, hen harriers and peregrine falcons. See – bet you didn't know that, did you? And if you did, you're probably not the sort of person with many options of a Friday night anyway. The programme explores the area over the course of a year through the eyes of people who live and work there.

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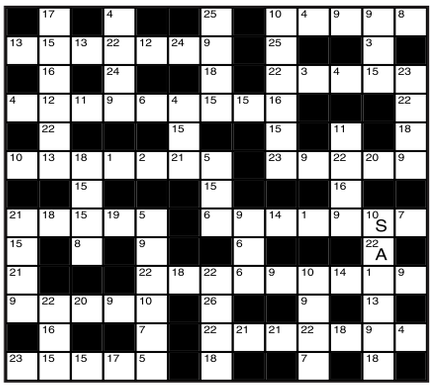


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Brain Gym No.178

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22 A
10 S	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	K	P	R	S	G	Q	I	T	N	U	H	O
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
X	B	L	C	Z	E	F	M	V	J	D	W	Y

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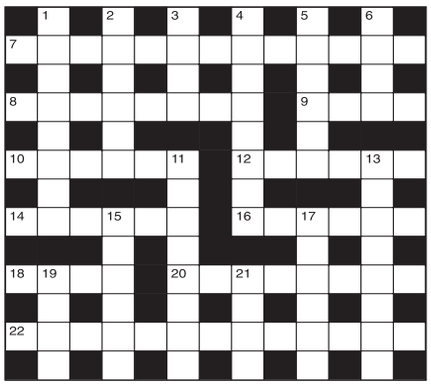


SEARCH: DAILY EXPRESS PUZZLES

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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. Here you see what makes crowds so cruel (9,4)
8. Going in for charm (8)
9. Craft lacking a prow? (4)
10. Small pigs making a distant noise (6)
12. Such games are not openly played (6)
14. It has no meaning (6)
16. Alliance has a complaint against the French (6)
18. One of rank, perhaps (4)
20. An apartment, indeed, needs air (8)
22. Softening the blow? (7,1,5)

Down

1. Every plot, by the way, will have one (8)
2. He takes more than normal interest in his work (6)
3. This singer, it's said, never gives an encore (4)
4. You do what you like with it! (4,4)
5. Got a point orchestrated (6)
6. Skin colour? (4)
11. Hard-boiled words of commendation (4,4)
13. Clue mixed with open abundance (8)
15. Result of eavesdropping in winter? (6)
17. You can count on it (6)
19. Heartless about what adjacent properties do (4)
21. Dread a change in the fare (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Blameworthy (13)
8. Habituate (8)
9. Band of criminals (4)
10. Ramble (6)
12. Bend (6)
14. Rivulet (6)
16. Temporary resident (6)
18. Heroic (4)
20. Induce (8)
22. Understanding (13)

Down

1. Trader (8)
2. Land (6)
3. Closed (4)
4. Hostile (8)
5. Tarry (6)
6. Scheme (4)
11. Recall (8)
13. Choice by vote (8)
15. Get away (6)
17. Strip (6)
19. Meagre (4)
21. Row (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Pier; 8 All the same; 9 Dark room; 10 Into; 12 Lassie; 14 Stains; 15 Minute; 17 Brewer; 18 Type; 19 Redolent; 21 Positively; 22 So-so. Down: 2 Incapacity; 3 Rank; 4 Alcove; 5 Rhymes; 6 Estimate; 7 Nero; 11 Tenderness; 13 Souvenir; 16 Earwig; 17 Bidder; 18 Taps; 20 Lays. QUICK - Across: 1 Hail; 8 At long last; 9 Disagree; 10 Airy; 12 Attest; 14 Taurus; 15 Instil; 17 Seethe; 18 Rear; 19 Question; 21 Break-of-day; 22 Sled. Down: 2 Assistance; 3 Lava; 4 Claret; 5 Intent; 6 Pleasure; 7 Stay; 11 Rough-house; 13 External; 16 Liquor; 17 Steady; 18 Ruby; 20 Toys.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

1	4			5			7	
		3	7				6	
9					8	3		1
		2		3	1		8	
4				6				
	6		4			9		3
3		7	8				1	4
	1		3		5	2	9	
	8			4				

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	8	3	6	9	4	5	1	7
1	4	6	7	8	5	9	2	3
5	7	9	3	2	1	4	6	8
8	1	4	2	5	6	7	3	9
7	6	5	1	3	9	2	8	4
3	9	2	8	4	7	6	5	1
4	3	8	5	7	2	1	9	6
9	5	1	4	6	8	3	7	2
6	2	7	9	1	3	8	4	5

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is B. Cabinet, wardrobe, cupboard, all items of furniture.

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Compact SUV has versatility that is hard to ignore



By Iain Dooley

NOW IN its third generation, Mitsubishi's Outlander has gradually evolved from left-field alternative to a compact SUV to something with the potential to give the current crop of affordable mid-size sports utility vehicles something to worry about.

With its streamlined stance and decidedly upmarket styling, Mitsubishi bosses are bullish about this Outlander's performance in the marketplace. Being realistic, Mitsubishi in the UK is offering a diesel-only fleet complete with four-wheel drive as standard.

The only major decision to make is whether to go with the firm's six-speed manual transmission or the six-speed auto.

In isolation this Outlander is a welcome step forward from the Japanese car maker.

However, internally this model is more significant than the average buyer will ever appreciate. A cornerstone of the firm's new model plans for the coming years, not only has the Outlander been the subject of a significant weight-loss programme – 100kg – it's also been designed from the outset to accommodate both conventional engines and the new wave of plug-in hybrid technologies.

For now, though, the Outlander symbolises a significant step forward in its own right.

The weight reduction has been achieved without any compromise to the ownership experience, while the reward for the engineers' hard work has been meaningful efficiency and emissions gains.

The sole engine option will be familiar to Outlander fans as it's a modified version of what was in the second-generation car.

The 148bhp 2.2-litre diesel unit has been reworked for its new home, with the result a useful 50mpg and a sub-150g/km CO2 rating.

From a performance angle the car will sprint to 60mph in just under 10 seconds, while top speed is 124mph.

Both gearboxes deliver a smooth and hassle-free experience, with the auto offering the extra convenience for urban dwellers and those seeking fewer distractions when towing.

On the road the Outlander performs well, and comes across as a genuinely competent all-rounder. There's a welcome maturity to the way it drives, and body control is well contained and overall refinement is pleasingly high.

Granted, there's no escaping the fact that the Outlander is diesel powered, but the car's cabin ambience is rarely disturbed by the engine's activity when at sensible speeds.

Factor in an easy-to-use all-wheel drive system that offers extra grip when the weather turns foul or for added security when you're towing and the Outlander's versatility is hard to ignore.

This is an attribute also reflected in the car's ability to accommodate a growing family.

Mitsubishi's engineers are keen to stress that the inclusion of a third row of seats turns the car into a genuine seven-seater.

Boasting a stylish, streamlined appearance plus a revised cabin offering a much-needed and welcome high-quality ambience, this third generation Outlander does many things right.

The substantial weight saving, promise of generous kit levels and tangible running cost savings are just some of the other achievements likely to put the Outlander on the shopping lists of many buyers.

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Heading for the heights – the MX-5 takes the driving experience to a new level



The roadster coupe is the classic soft-top



The MX-5's vacuum brake-booster helps with those winding roads

New MX-5 puts out lots more zoom-zoom

A NEW, upgraded version of the world's best-selling open-top sportscar, the Mazda MX-5, is now rolling off the assembly line in Hiroshima, Japan and will go on sale in the UK later this year.

The upgraded MX-5 has enhanced safety features and refined driving attributes, together with exterior and interior improvements to make the Roadster Coupe and the classic soft-top models even more attractive.

Exterior changes include a new, more aggressive front bumper design that also improves aerodynamic performance, and the availability of a striking new Dolphin Grey Mica paint finish. Inside, the panel décor and matching steering wheel spokes have been upgraded for an improved cabin ambience.

The MX-5 has always delivered one of the world's most enjoyable drives, and the upgraded version is now even more responsive to driver inputs.

Throttle pedal actuation has been modified on manual transmission models, increasing the feeling of linear acceleration and giving the driver even more control when accelerating from lower speeds, on winding country roads, for example.

Acceleration

The characteristics of the vacuum brake-booster have been revised to optimise brake return control, which is especially beneficial when the driver brakes while entering a curve. The new acceleration control then kicks-in when the driver backs off the brake and steps on the accelerator again.

Taken together, these two new upgrades make braking more controllable and acceleration after braking both smoother and faster. Consequently, the upgraded MX-5 takes Mazda's legendary Jinba Ittai 'horse and rider as one' driving experience to a whole new level – and make the new model even more fun to drive.

Not only is the upgraded MX-5 more aggressive-looking, aerodynamically more efficient and better handling around corners, pedestrian safety is also greatly improved.

This model introduces Mazda's new 'active bonnet' pedestrian protection system which automatically raises the trailing edge of the bonnet if a pedestrian impact is detected. This action provides immediate space under the bonnet to absorb impact energy and soften the blow. Complementing the new bonnet, the new front bumper design also enhances pedestrian leg protection.

The upgraded Mazda MX-5 will go on sale in the UK later this year.

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"Inside, the panel décor and matching steering wheel spokes have been upgraded for an improved cabin ambience."



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Require additional players for Season 2012/13. (Forthcoming school year 7).
Preferably with previous club experience.
Please contact Jeremy 07791 518434 or David 07969 179515 for more information.

P. ROBERTS
Contact the Boat Yard.
Urgent.

PENN COLTS FC
Require players for season 2012/13, for all positions.
Under 8's East.
Contact Suki 07711 218842.
Under 8's West
Contact Nigel 07853 175029.
Under 9's East
Contact Roy 07940 462290.

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49, caring, GSOH, likes country walks and meals out and good conversation, would like to meet lady 40-55 for evenings out and friendship.
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1991, Talbot A Class.
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Right hand drive.
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On a small Family run park, 14 statics only, between Defford and Pershore, one owner, pets/smoke free, 2-beds, en-suite, kitchen/diner, bathroom, lounge, large decking all round, many extras, excellent condition, over 50's to apply.

£42,500 for quick sale.
07747 689403.

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KINVER
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pets corner

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1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.

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01299 266313 or 07564 262371 www.forest-dog-rescue.org.uk

KIND HOMES WANTED

HOLLY, 8 year old cream/tan curly coated Terrier.
MARLEY, 9 month old Patterdale.
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Telephone 01588 676106.

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07714 442 263
07735 516756

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property

accommodation to let

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BUSHBURY, W'ton, modern studios, CH, DG, no upfront deposits, DSS 35+ welcome 07773 256542

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THREE-BED HOUSE Fallings Park, DSS Ok £105pwk. Deposit req'd. 01902 352224 / 07792 441114

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WHITMORE REANS, W'ton, modern 2 bed house, CH, DG, new decor, DSS welcome, 07773 256542

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PEMBERTON, PARK LANE 14FT X 39FT

On a small Family run park, 14 statics only, between Defford and Pershore, one owner, pets/smoke free, 2-beds, en-suite, kitchen/diner, bathroom, lounge, large decking all round, many extras, excellent condition, over 50's to apply.

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FOR SALE

Residental site in Hampton Loade.

36ft x 20ft, 2 beds master en-suite, separate bathroom and shower, fully fitted kitchen including all white goods, gas CH with own gas tank.

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£3,195.
07974 762313.

BMW Z3 ROADSTER

2.2 injection, 2001, 12 months, 6 months tax, 43,000 miles, met silver, electric heated seats, six CD player,
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Call Steph on
07718 758362 or 0121 5022597

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0121 3535435 - 07976 203089

FORD FIESTA LX 1.25, 3 dr, 03 metallic, 60k, full MoT, immaculate, serviced, 2 owners, £1,850. 07884 375778 - 01902 897483

FORD GALAXY 1.9TDi Ghia, 2004, 65,000 genuine miles, fsh, tax and MoT, excellent condition, £5,950. 07976 337878

FORD MONDEO Ghia TDCi, 2005, 83k, black, MoT April 2013, tax October 2012, some history, £2,850 ono. 01743 248189.

FORD MONDEO EDGE 2.0TDCi, 2007, 127k, long tax/MoT, new dual mass flywheel, fsh, immaculate £2,700 ono. 07531 433056.

FORD MONDEO MINSTRAL, 2004, 51k miles, silver, MoT, one owner, tax, petrol, excellent condition, £1,700 ono. 07968 726338.

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Silver, 1999, tax, MoT, 2 previous owners, good condition, PAS.
£3,900 ono
01694 723820.

MAZDA RX8
231bhp, metallic grey, 54 plate, 75,000 miles, 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, excellent condition.
Genuine reason for sale.
£2,600 ono.
07964 381530.



MERCEDES A CLASS A150
Silver, 2005 (55), 87,000 miles, abs, electric windows, air bags, electric mirrors, a/c, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, c/l, pas, tax, AMG alloys, stereo, CD, petrol, non smoker, very reliable, sporty example of the A class.
£2,999
07982 079609 - 01952 461453

MERCEDES E200 Aventgard FSO, full MoT, auto, excellent, all electric leather seats, 02 reg, £2,260. 07751 178535.

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MINI COOPER 1.6
2003, silver, chequered roof, full black leather interior, alloys, CD player, fsh, long MoT and tax, lady owner.
Excellent condition.
£3000.
07917 620282.

MINI COOPER Classic 1996, 65,000 miles, tax and MoT, surf blue, leather interior, good runner, £2,100 ono. 01384 825662.



MINI COOPER S
2004, 3 doo, 6 speed manual, fsh, dark grey, black roof, chilli pack, CD radio, EW, brushed aluminium interior, Mini alarm, immobiliser, tax to Sept 2012, MoT Oct 2012, only 48,000 miles.
£5,525.
07834 145237 to view.

MITSUBISHI COLT 5dr hatchback, diesel, 1.4, 07 Reg, 19,000 miles, £3,000. 0121 3857191

NISSAN MICRA 1200 S, 04 reg, red, 61,000 miles, MoT, history, PAS, lovely condition, drives superb £1,850. 07523 729551.

NISSAN XTRAIL Columbia, 2006, black, 68k, sat nav, FSH, EW, AC, tax, MoT Sept, excellent condition £6,700 ono. 07929 946266.

PEUGEOT 206 SPORT, 1360cc, silver, 2005, MoT Feb, recent service, 62,000 miles, very good condition, £2,495. 01746 763007.

PEUGEOT 207
M Play, 08 reg, 3dr hatch, petrol, 1.3, silver, MoT April 2013, tax end 2012, 48,000 miles,
£4,300
01299 250331.

PEUGEOT 307 cc red, 54 reg, 49K miles, tax/MoT Jan 2013, very nice condition, lady owner, £3,995 ono. 01562 863135.

PT CRUISER 2.0, 53, rare red, full MoT, low miles, a/c, full electrics, excellent condition inside and out, £1,650. 07855 946489.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2
Dynamique, 05 54 Plate, red, 70k, fsh, sport add ons, new cam belt, clutch and front brakes, MoT Jan 13,
£2,000 ono.
07790 876144.

RENAULT CLIO Dynamique, 16v, 1149cc, 55 reg, 54,500 miles, silver, abs, alarm, MoT, pas, sunroof, tax, alloys, £2,000.
07879 403302 or 01384 892725.

RENAULT SCENIC Dynamique DCi 120 diesel, 54 reg, 94,000 miles, silver, air con, fsh, alarm, MoT, pas, tax, alloys, £2,000.
07879 403302 or 01384 892725.

SKODA FABIA 1.2. 55 reg., 4-dr, FSH, A/C, Tax, MoT. New tyres, 43k, £2,800. 01384 835990 after 6pm.

SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 4X4, 2000, vgc, 90,000 miles, blue/silver, diesel, long MoT, clean and low miles for year. £1,950 ono. 07837 884891.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.2 CABRIOLET, 53 plate, 70K, CD, AC, ABS, cruise control etc, MoT April 2013. £2,695. o.n.o. 01746 710440.

IMMACULATE

VAUXHALL CORSA SXI
59 reg, 25,000 miles, 3 door, metallic silver, air conditioned, electric windows, alloys, central locking, pas, abs, CD, full service history, Manufacturers Warranty.
£5,900. 01902 896592.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8LS 2004, 53K, tax Oct, MoT Mar, FSH, good runner, excellent car. £1,800 ono. 07961 059484.

VW GOLF 1.4 petrol, black, 02 reg, 75k, CD, serviced, tax/MoT September, £1,800. Stourbridge 01384 374240.

VW GOLF 150bhp GT TDi diesel, 2003, 3dr, 10 months MoT, tax, recent service and cam belt, VGC £4,150 ono. 07802 747262.

VW GOLF
5dr hatch, 1.4 petrol, 53 plate, red, 1 previous owner, all electric, 38,500 miles, f.s.h. alloys, hands free, parrot fitted, MoT and taxed January 2013, excellent condition.
£3,895.
01543 270909 / 07759 096555.

VW GOLF TDi 105, 2002, hatchback, 5 door, manual, diesel, black, alloys, 157,000 miles, £2,099. 07814 617814.

VW GOLF TDi MATCH, 1.9
03 reg, dark blue metallic, 74k, recent service, 7 months tax, 3 months MoT, good condition,
£3,500 ono.
07973 793931.



VW PASSAT ESTATE 1.9 TDI (130) HIGHLINE
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£3,995 ono.
07909 994373.

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NISSAN MICRA, S reg, pearl pink, alloys and body kit, tax and MoT, ideal first car. £900 ono.
07979 158156.

FIAT SEICENTO Sporting, 1999, 120,000 miles, yellow, MoT, tax, £300 ono. 01902 700935.

FORD FIESTA GHIA diesel, full MoT, tax, 1997, 4 door, tow bar, £495. 07930 090438.

FORD FIESTA T reg Ghia, 4dr, immaculate, tax/MoT, 1.2 petrol, £475. 07538 333480.

FORD FOCUS LX, 2000, four months MoT, 94,010 miles, £590. 07951 472953.

FORD KA 1300 Y reg, tax March 2013, MoT June 2013, £900 ono. 07827 892459 after 6pm.

FORD KA 51 plate, tax and MoT, very clean, drives well, £800. 07791 912135.

FORD KA COLLECTION 51, silver, tax/MoT, 2 owners, some sporty features, very clean, good runner. £795 ono. 07774 732353.

FORD MONDEO ZETEC, 12 months MoT, V reg, towbar, alloys, £595. 07778 294979.

HONDA CIVIC 1.4 SE, 3dr, silver, Xreg, A/C, S/R, alloys, FSH, 122k, superb engine. £950. 01746 780590 / 07896 817613.

MAZDA 323 5dr, 2000, 1300cc, MoT Jun 2013, 6 months tax, PAS, excellent runner, bargain, £495. 07552 339764.

MAZDA MX5, 1995, Convertible, 96k miles, British Racing Green, good condition, £1,250 for quick sale.07909 513596.

MAZDA MX5 EUNOS, 1997, 88,850 miles, BRG, electric windows, alloys, CD, leather interior, petrol, same family 15 years, MoT, £995. 07877 447599.

MERCEDES 180 Classic, M reg, 1.8, MoT July, EW, CL, alarm, part history, Kenwood CD £650. 01902 684331 or 07742 956520.

MERCEDES 220CE Coupe, 93 reg, very reliable and tidy, 9 months Mot, 6 months tax, £800 ono. 01952 591740.

MERCEDES 220CE Coupe, 93 reg, very reliable and tidy, 9 months Mot, 6 months tax, £800 ono. 01952 591740.

MERCEDES A CLASS Diesel, 2001, MoT July 12, Tax August 12. Good condition. £900 ono. 07983 174678. Wolverhampton.

MGF CONVERTIBLE 1998, Silver, 12 months MoT, good condition. £950 ono. 07983 174678. Wolverhampton.

NISSAN ALMERA N862 TPB 1.4, 5dr, blue, MoT April 2013, 6 mths Tax, 1 owner, good condition, 93,000 miles. £450. 07905 045431.



NISSAN MICRA TEMPEST
2002, 50,000 miles, silver, fsh, alarm, 11 months MoT, metallic paint, central locking, one owner, pas, sunroof, stereo, CD, towbar, petrol, immaculate condition, ideal 1st car, first to see will buy.
£1,499 ono.
01384 401113.

PEUGEOT 607, blue, good condition, new cambelt, 145,000 miles, MoT March 2012. £1,495 ono.
01902 219286 or 07951 472953.

PUNTO 1.2, 2002, £895. Micra 1.0, 1998, £595. Both 10 months MoT, tax November. 07929 345915.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 16V Dynamique, 2001, met sky blue, full MoT, alloys, fsh, 1 owner, lots of extras, £895. 07592 112784

RENAULT LAGUNA 1.9DTI, 2000(W), 5 door hatchback, 141,500 miles, grey metallic, 12 months MoT. Good solid reliable runner. £600. 01952 641921.

RENAULT MEGANE 2.0 KARMAN CABRIOLET
2000., 6 months Tax, 8 months MoT. metallic blue, Power hood, leather interior. Very good condition.
£1,350.
0121 5223150 or 075133 69167.

RENAULT SCENIC 1.4, 52 plate., Tax till October, MoT till May 2013. 76,000 miles. Good condition. £1,395. 07941 873154.

RENAULT SCENIC ALIZE 1.6 Hatch, Y reg, very good condition new clutch fitted. Good, reliable motor. £1,250. ono. 07577 994561.

★ **ROVER MGF**, 1997, British Racing Green, Kidderminster, £850 ono. 07914 512156.

SUZUKI IGNIS 03 plate, black, 1.3, petrol, 11.5 months MoT, 69,500 miles, £825 ono.
For quick sale. 07970 174138.

TOYOTA COROLLA Solair SE 1332cc, red, P reg, full MoT, good condition, £450. 07905 045431.

TOYOTA YARIS 998cc, 2001, tax and MoT, 3dr hatchback, 55,000 miles, 2 lady owners, £1,495 ono. 07980 147685.

VAUXHALL ASTRA ESTATE 1.6, 1998, S reg., eight months MoT, clean car, £595 o.n.o. 07903 226347.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 12v Club, W reg, clean car 3-dr, 2 owners, manual, petrol, yellow. MoT May 13. tax Oct 12. £795. 07795 246808.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2L, 1996, blue, 5 months MOT, 4 months tax, low mileage, £350 o.n.o. 01902 569462.

VAUXHALL CORSA 2002, black, 1200cc, tax and MoT, alloys, £1,500 ono. 01902 750182 or 07990 866198.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8LS, 16v, 2003, 83k, blue, air bag, alarm, met paint, tax Oct, alloys, MoT Apr, £1,200 ono. 07749 940810.

VW GOLF 1.6S MK4, 1999, T reg, navy blue, 5dr, approx 123,000 miles Tax till end of Oct 2012, Mot Jan 2013. £950. ono. 07907 704925

classic cars

FORD ESCORT MK111 Ghia, 1986, red, immaculate condition, 65,000 miles, MoT, £1,500 ono. 0797 2354694, 01952 883258.



VW BEETLE 1303
M reg, 1973, bright red, exceptional restored condition, EMPI wheels, new tyres, tax and MoT May 2013.
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£2,500 ono.
Telephone 07817 624687.

commercial vehicles

FORD ESCORT Van, white, 51 reg, FSH, 9 months MoT Mar, tax Nov, roof rack, new cam belt etc, £1,000 ono. 01902 750827.

VAUXHALL ASTRA Van, 02 reg, 110,000 miles, full MoT, good condition. £1,295. Call 07507 383674.

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KAWASAKI VN900 Classic, 2010, 3,400 miles, 11 months tax, 15 months MoT, extras, excellent condition, £5,500. 07999 486250

PIAGGIO NRG 50cc scotter, 2007 reg, 2,000 miles, MoT and Tax Feb 2013, excellent condition, £995 ono. 07971 016444.

SUZUKI GSXR 600, 2003, excellent condition, new tyres, full MoT, £2,250 ono.
07834 485395.

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Ord knock takes win away from home side

Kidderminster Victoria 182-7 (47 overs) Barnt Green 128-8 (27 overs)

JASON ORD carried his side to a winning draw with an unbeaten 64 for Barnt Green, his knock coming in 106 minutes, with five fours and two sixes.

Once again this was the only match played in the Premier Division.

For successive Saturdays, the Kidderminster groundsman Damon Willets produced a dry wicket when no other club seemed capable of doing so.

A delayed start of an hour saw Kidderminster lose the toss and bat first and county opener Matt Pardoe was caught for seven.

Andy Kimberlin and Neil Pinner took the score up to 57 before Kimberlin was bowled for 22.

Pinner and Bern Cox had a partnership of 55, but the latter, having scored 38 with six fours, was adjudged leg before to former Kidderminster player Andy Sutton.

With the scoreboard reading 153, Pinner was out for 59, having struck two fours and a six. Zac Turley was caught without adding to the score.

Jonathan Wright became Powell's fourth scalp when Andy Sutton caught him for five. Marc Edwards became his fifth, being bowled for 10. Connor Smith (10) and Richard Kimberlin (4) were the not out batsmen.

In reply, KVCC's Connor Smith finished with 4-48.

KVCC pay their first visit to Berkswell on Saturday with a 12 pm start.

Rain forces early finish

WORCESTERSHIRE cricket is experiencing the worst rain-affected season in living memory as the weather once again caused 99 per cent of games to be abandoned. Cookley first XI remain top of Division Three with nine games to go.

Cookley 2nd XL (5pts) 56-4 Stourport 2nd XL (6pts) Match abandoned.

There was some play at Lea Lane as Cookley seconds entertained rivals Stourport.

The visitors won the toss and good bowling by Gav Bryan (3-16) supported by Adam Sellick had Cookley in trouble at 56-4 until afternoon rain forced an early retirement to the bar.



Adam Nutland, left, and Steve Horton, right, with Brian Holyman, outgoing league chairman

Nutland secures the hat-trick

by Pete Carroll

ADAM NUTLAND underlined his position as one of the top table tennis players in the Midlands by retaining his Kidderminster & District open title for the third year in succession.

Nutland, recently appointed head coach at the prestigious Woodfield Table Tennis Club in Wolverhampton, defeated Steve Horton for the second year in a row on finals night at Kidderminster Harriers Social Club.

Horton, with partner Stephane Bonnafous, won the open doubles, beating Will Pritchard and Andy Thomas. Horton and his daughter Laura defeated Pritchard and Beth Roberts to take the mixed doubles title.

With Nutland no longer eligible as a junior, Frank Carroll took the Junior Singles Cup, beating his younger brother George in the final 3-1. George was able to take some consolation in the form of the Coach's Award.

Brett Brining defeated Tim Giles in the Restricted Singles for players outside division one but Giles picked up some silverware when he pipped Stourminster's Dave Evans in one of the most keenly-contested games of the night to take the Super Vets title.

Andy Thomas comfortably defeated fellow Cookley club member Peter Carroll to win the Handicap Singles.

A cut glass presentation was made to Brian Holyman for his years of dedicated service. He has stepped down from his role as league chairman but remains on the committee. Chris Dangerfield, from Harriers B is the league's new chairman.

Adam Nutland was widely expected to triumph in the end-of-season hard bat competition at Cookley Table Tennis Club but was pipped in the final by Jim's Gym veteran Steve Hammond.

The 2011-12 divisional team winners were as follows: Division 1 Harriers B; Division 2 Broadheath Belters; Division 3 Holy Trinity A.

Any youngsters looking to take up the sport can attend coaching classes on Thursdays (5.30pm) at Cookley Village Hall.

Samurai strikes gold to head medals table

SAMURAI Judo Club finished top of the medals table last weekend out of the 30 clubs who attended their junior limited grades championship at their new Zortech Avenue premises.

The Kidderminster club took four gold medals, three silvers and four bronzes, edging out Stafford's Friary club into second place.

Judo

Cameron Hobby was the first Samurai player on the mat in the lightest of the boys' lower grades categories. He emphatically defeated rivals from Worcester and Bromsgrove clubs on his way to the final against a player from Newport in Wales. Cameron was always in control and led for most of the match by a high score before securing a groundhold to turn that into maximum points and the gold medal.

Next up was Tomos Jones, who started well but then lost to a Friary player for a place in the final. He came back well in the bronze playoff to defeat a Dudley boy to take the bronze.

William Taylor was looking really sharp and held a Hereford player for maximum points in his first contest, then threw an Irfon player for maximum points to book his place in the final. In the final he was caught by a good throw from a Friary player.

Luke Haynes added another bronze to the tally, losing to an Erdington player in the semi-final but taking out a Hereford player for the bronze. It was a similar story for Andy Calloway, who lost to a Ludlow player in his semi-final but then beat a Friary player by maximum points to take the bronze.

In the girls' lower grades, Toni Poulsom dispatched girls from Dudley and Irfon to reach her final against another Dudley player. A superb maximum point throw earned her the Samurai's second gold medal of the day.

Keryn Lamb was the only other Samurai girl in the lower grade girls section. She held a Dudley girl for maximum points but then lost to an Erdington girl to end her chances of making the final, but she had done enough to get herself into the bronze medal position.

Nathan Gallacher was the only Samurai higher grade boy at the event, but looked on brilliant form. He had two good London opponents on his way to the final and defeated both with some excellent skills to get into the final against a Sheffield player. Nathan was always in control and finished a score up to take the gold.

In the girls' higher grades, Darcie Hancocks was in the lightest weight group. Four maximum point wins out of four including an impressive demolition of a Liverpool rival in the final gave her the gold medal.

Bryony Griffiths started well by defeating players from Dudley and Birmingham by maximum points to reach her final against a Hampshire girl, where she had to settle for the silver.

Becky Hobby was the final Samurai player to compete. Two maximum-point wins against girls from Wolverhampton and Dudley saw her into the final against another Liverpool player and Becky, too, came home with a silver.

Silvers from her and Bryony edged Samurai to the top of them medals table.

New premises means the Samurai club can now expand on their 140-strong membership and the club are keen to attract new members. Call 0776 1122977 or visit www.samurai.org.uk



William Taylor (left) goes on the attack in his match



Toni Poulsom holds on to claim maximum points



Bryony Griffiths (left) tries to get a grip of her opponent

Harriers start with a win but then lose

KIDDERMINSTER Harriers lost in front of a crowd in pre-season for the first team but actually started their summer programme on a winning note.

Harriers started last Saturday with a behind-closed-doors friendly against Albion, the match taking place at the Baggies' Great Barr training Ground.

Burr took the chance to ease goalkeeper Danny Lewis back into first-team action with his first appearance for nearly 10 months.

Lewis last played in a league game at Grimsby last September before tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee in training.

Currently the club's only signed player between the sticks, the 30-year-old figured as Harriers won 3-2 with goals in the first-half.

A double from Ryan Rowe and a strike from James Vincent left Harriers management in a good mood as they moved on to Romulus' Coles Lane.

Momentum

Harriers fielded first-teamers, trialists and youth team players Ashley Checketts and Tyrone Williams against their hosts.

Two trialists were involved in the first flashpoint after 26 minutes, Charlie Blakemore handling to concede a penalty.

But goalkeeper Ed Baldy kept the spot kick out from Nicky Campbell and, 10 minutes later, Harriers took advantage to go ahead.

Trialist Justin Naisbitt saw his effort saved but the ball only went as far as Jack Byrne, who scored with a close-range header.

However, Romulus fired back five minutes straight after the break with the equaliser, netted by ex-Birmingham star Paul Devlin.

The 40-year-old slotted past replacement goalkeeper James Collister and, on 50 minutes, the home side got what proved to be the winner.

Nathan Jackson got the goal as Harriers threw on youth team duo Judd Ellis, Paul Hurrell and trialists James Johnson and Jean-Michel Gueyes but it proved to be to no avail.

Harriers first-half: Baldy, Williams, Checketts, Demetriou, Blakemore, Thompson-Brown, Gittings, Byrne, Johnson, Simmons, Naisbitt.

Harriers second-half: Collister, Johnson, Naisbitt, Zeff Johnson, Checketts, Blakemore, Gittings, Demetriou, Byrne, Williams, Simmons.

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SPORT

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Samurai set the gold standard
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Ex-captain may be on way out of New Road

WORCESTERSHIRE batsman Vikram Solanki could be heading out of New Road at the end of the season after being given permission to speak to other counties.

Solanki, who captained Worcestershire between 2005 and 2010, has spent his entire 17-year professional career at New Road and scored 16,570 runs in first-class cricket at an average of 36.02.

The 36-year-old admitted he could yet remain at the county if agreement can be reached over a new deal.

"I'd like to play at Worcestershire ideally," said Solanki, who played 51 ODIs and three Twenty20 matches for England.

"But if it's a case that I need to consider other options, I owe it to myself and my family to explore those options."

Worcestershire chief executive David Leatherdale said: "Vikram spoke to the club relative to the annual contract appraisal wanting to know where he stood.

"At the moment the club are undecided because we are still halfway though the season and circumstances don't allow us to guarantee a contract.

"He's asked if he can speak to other counties and we have allowed him to do that."

The Pears have, though, secured seamers Alan Richardson and Nick Harrison for another couple of seasons after they agreed two-year contracts.

Bewdley to hit the road in FA Cup

BEWDLEY TOWN face two road trips in the early stages of the FA Cup.

They are away to Brocton on Saturday, August 11 in the extra preliminary round.

Should they get through, it's another journey a fortnight later in the preliminary round to the winners of the Highgate/Wellington tie.

Bewdley have a bye in the first qualifying round of the FA Vase, and will be away to Leek CSOB in the second qualifying round on Saturday, September15.

League action begins on Saturday, August 4 with a trip to Dudley Sports before Town host Wolves SC the following Tuesday.

Bewdley also have four pre-season friendlies.

Fixtures: July 21, Earlswood Town (A), 24 Stourbridge (H), 28 Sutton Coldfield Town (H), 31 Oakengates (H).

Mansell delivers the knockout blow

Kidderminster CC

MARK MANSELL rolled back the years to fire Kidderminster into the quarter-finals of the prestigious National Knockout.

Veteran Mansell bagged 4-7 as Kidderminster fought back from a below-par total to book their place in the last eight with a 52-run victory over Merseyside club Neston.

Mansell was the star turn as Kidderminster skittled their hosts for just 62 after struggling to 114 in their own innings.

They will now face Bamford Fieldhouse of Oldham, at home on July 29 in the quarter-finals of the competition now called the Kingfisher Beer Cup.

The Lancashire outfit have former England leg-spinner Chris Schofield and ex-Lancashire wicketkeeper Warren Hegg in their ranks.

Captain Jonathan Wright was Kidderminster's top-scorer with just 24 as his side were dismissed cheaply.

Andrew Kimberlin contributed 21 as Kidderminster struggled in the bowler-friendly conditions.

But their total of 114 proved more than enough as Mansell, Richard Kimberlin (3-16) and Neil Pinner (2-15) and Connor Smith (1-19) blew away their opponents.

Wright said: "We didn't get as many runs as we would have hoped for but it proved to be quite a tricky pitch and it turned out we had enough.

"Richard Kimberlin and Connor Smith bowled superbly with the new ball and took some early wickets, but while they were only four down the game was still in the balance.

"But Mark Mansell then came on, they couldn't get him off the square and he actually deserved more than four wickets, although Neil Pinner bowled well at the other end.

"There is nothing like a National Knockout win away from home," added Wright.

League round-up – Page 31

HARRIERS MAY SELL TRIAL REBEL MATT

KIDDERMINSTER Harriers could sell Jamille Matt to the highest bidder after the striker made a mockery of the club by going on trial without permission to Sheffield United.

A storm erupted at the back end of last week after it emerged Matt, who is still fighting claims he is an illegal immigrant, had been training with the Blades.

United manager Danny Wilson unwittingly let it slip the big frontman had spent time with his squad.

by Craig Birch

Harriers later confirmed it was without their consent.

In a club statement, chairman Mark Serrell revealed both manager Steve Burr and assistant Gary Whild were unaware of Matt's movements.

Matt, who was born in Jamaica but has lived in England from the age of seven, has not received clearance from the Border Agency to play again in this country.

But Harriers still took up their one-year option to extend the 22-year-old's contract this summer, which the FA have confirmed is currently still valid.

Serrell said: "Jamille Matt has attended this trial without not only the permission, but also the knowledge of anyone here.

"I know that Steve Burr and Gary Whild, who have known Jamille for a number of years, were unaware of the developments.

"Removing football from the equation entirely, the board of directors, management and staff at Kidderminster Harriers have worked very hard in trying to aid Jamille resolve his personal circumstances.

"From the first advice we sought, all the way through to this day, we have acted with honesty in all dealings.

"I would also add that the officials at Sheffield United, with who I have been in conversation with, have been helpful and quite apologetic.

"It appears that they were unaware of the full picture."

Harriers believe it's a matter of time before Matt is allowed to play in this country again and helped foot the cost of his legal bills.

Should that happen, there's a likelihood they may cash in on the player, who could have burned his bridges at Aggborough.

Disappearing to United indicates Matt is seeking a move but it's understood that the trial was engineered by his agent, Will Salthouse.

Harriers will command a fee as the player is under contract, under 24 and regarded as, perhaps, the club's most prized asset.

The striker was a target for Northampton last December and has attracted two six-figure bids from Football League clubs.

Matt was called up for the England C team in February and that's when the Border Agency were alerted.

Players must produce their passports to the Football Association before they can be involved.

Finances in danger of going Pear-shaped



No play today – New Road is in need of a mid-season makeover after flood water covered the outfield

WORCESTERSHIRE County Cricket Club are facing another clean-up operation after torrential weekend rain left New Road flooded again.

Heavy downpours saw large parts of the outfield at the county ground underwater for the second time this season.

The Pears chief executive David Leatherdale has admitted the latest setback could leave a hole in the club's finances.

Leatherdale said: "It's concerning in that we hoped to make good profit but nobody can control the weather.

"Investing in the non-cricket side of the business is key with the hotel development which eventually feeds back to cricket because that's what we're here for. We're better able to cope with it than we probably were three or four years ago."

The next first XI action at New Road is scheduled for July 27, when the Pears are due to entertain South Africa in a two-day match.

Wheeler is in driving seat with 103 knock

Worcestershire County Cricket League

ONLY seven matches started out of a scheduled programme of 72 fixtures.

Play was again possible at Division One first XI leaders Pershore after much mopping up.

The home side were inserted by Nomads and appeared to be meandering at 108-5 until Sam Cross joined Lee Wilks and the latter then proceeded to blast 49 from 36 balls and hoist the total to 144-5 in 30 overs.

When the rain returned the match was called off with Nomads at 92-5 after 25.

Division Four first XIs saw two matches played, one at Hanley Castle and Upton where the hosts asked Barnards Green thirds to bat in a 38-over match and watched them rack up 249-3, Andy Wheeler cracking 103.

The second innings was further reduced to 35 overs and Hanley were left hanging on at 79-8. Lye resume top spot, beating Old Hill thirds by seven wickets.

In the second XIs, Cookley reached 56-4 at home to Stourport.

Division Seven saw Stourport extend their lead at the top after a winning draw over bottom side Bewdley.

Kempsey and Nomads almost beat the rain with Kempsey's innings ending after 22 overs just three short of victory.

Double success for Greenfield

KAREN GREENFIELD had a double success at Kidderminster Golf Club, winning the ladies championship and the Di Bannister Trophy.

Results. Ladies championship: 1 Karen Greenfield 153 gross, 2 Anna Rock 166. **Di Bannister Trophy (27 holes):** 1 Karen Greenfield 107 nett, 2 Anna Rock, 122. **Mrs Jean Field Spoons:** 1 Sharon Cartwright 80 nett, 2 Di Cope 86.

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